



## **Aetna Better Health of Illinois to Develop Community Gardens Across the State**

*The Community Gardens will provide access to nutritious food and healthy eating resources*

**DOWNERS GROVE, Ill., June 26, 2022** – Aetna Better Health® of Illinois, a CVS Health® company (NYSE: CVS), is working with local partner [Taste for the Homeless](#) to address food insecurity in underserved communities across the state of Illinois. This summer, Aetna® will assist in designing and building community gardens to provide residents access to fresh, wholesome foods.

Aetna will also host a variety of events and provide resources to promote healthy eating throughout the year, such as onsite cooking workshops and farmers markets. Each location has been chosen to reach Medicaid members and residents with inadequate access to healthy food in several cities throughout the state.

"Building community gardens across Illinois aligns with our objective to improve the overall health of our communities," said Kim Foltz, Central Division President, Aetna Medicaid. "By providing access to healthy, locally grown food along with health screenings and information, Aetna aims to ensure resources and care are available to everyone."

Aetna will develop community gardens through October 2022. The first garden, Good Hope Community Garden, will open on June 26, 2022, in partnership with Good Hope Freewill Baptist Church.

### **Good Hope Community Garden details**

**WHERE:** Good Hope Freewill Baptist Church, 525 S. California Ave., Chicago, IL 60612

**WHEN:** Garden construction, June 13 to 16, 2022

Ribbon cutting ceremony, June 26, 2022, 1:30 pm

**WHAT:** The ribbon cutting ceremony will feature a variety of free resources, including:

- Farmers market
- Health screenings, vaccine clinics and well-being services
- Starter window garden seed kits
- Live cooking demonstration hosted by Taste for the Homeless CEO and Chef Michael Airhart

Aetna Better Health of Illinois offers quality, affordable health care to individuals through the state's HealthChoice Illinois Medicaid program. The health plan serves 430,000 members in 102 counties.

**About Aetna Medicaid**

Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC (Aetna Medicaid), a CVS Health company, has over 30 years of experience managing the care of the most medically vulnerable, using innovative approaches and a local presence in each market to achieve both successful health care results and effective cost outcomes. Aetna Medicaid has particular expertise serving high-need Medicaid members, including those who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. Currently, Aetna Medicaid owns and/or administers Medicaid managed health care plans under the names of Aetna Better Health and other affiliate names. Together, these plans serve approximately 2.8 million people in 16 states, including Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. For more information visit [www.aetnabetterhealth.com](http://www.aetnabetterhealth.com).

**About CVS Health**

CVS Health is the leading health solutions company, delivering care like no one else can. We reach more people and improve the health of communities across America through our local presence, digital channels and over 300,000 dedicated colleagues – including more than 40,000 physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and nurse practitioners. Wherever and whenever people need us, we help them with their health – whether that's managing chronic diseases, staying compliant with their medications, or accessing affordable health and wellness services in the most convenient ways. We help people navigate the health care system – and their personal health care – by improving access, lowering costs and being a trusted partner for every meaningful moment of health. And we do it all with heart, each and every day. Learn more at [www.cvshealth.com](http://www.cvshealth.com).

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