



Scripting Examples for SDOH Screening

This tool is designed to support MDHHS SIM PCMH Initiative participants by providing opening conversation starters to begin Social Determinants of Health screening for PCMH practice staff to use in communication with patients. Please find a variety of scripting examples below.

Scripting Options

- “At [insert PCMH name], we believe that basic needs influence a patient's overall health. We would like to begin to screen patients for different types of basic needs so that we could help connect them with resources to assist them with these needs. For some needs, we may not be able to connect you with resources to assist you with them, but we would like to identify community needs that we need to create resources to address as well.

We would appreciate it if you would answer the following questions. If you would prefer not to answer these questions, that is fine. We will keep all of the information that you share private, however, if you would like assistance with a need, we will need your permission to share this information with the community resource that can assist you with this need.”

- “Our goal is to help you and your family become or stay as healthy as possible. To do that we’d like to ask you a few questions to see if there are needs we can link you to in the community. For example, we helped one family with food pantries to help them have healthy food in their home. Some of the questions I’m going to ask are personal, but please know we will keep them confidential and use them to provide you any resources we can. If at any time you feel uncomfortable you can also opt out of a question. Does that sound ok? Shall we get started?”
- “We know it’s not easy to know about all the resources in the community such as food, housing and transportation, and we would like to help you with that, but to do that we need to learn more about you. Would you mind answering a few questions that I can use to find out more about you and how I can link you to resources?”

- “Thanks for coming in today! We’re happy you’ve partnered with us to maintain your health. As part of your total health, we know that factors at home may influence your ability to be healthy. Some of these could be access to healthy food, transportation or housing. We don’t have all the resources here, but we’d like to connect you with partners who can help. Could I ask you a few questions to see if there are resources I can give you?”
- “Many times, our patients come to us with needs beyond just medical, for example, housing, food and transportation. While we don’t help with those directly, we do have partners in the community who can help and we would like to link you with them. Would you mind if I ask you a few questions to see if there are resources I can share?”
- “Great job! Coming in today was a good step towards ensuring you/your family are healthy. You may not be aware of this, but our practice/office also assists in linking patients to resources in the community such as food, housing, transportation, or other needs. Is that something you’re interested in? If yes, could I ask you a few questions to figure out which resources would fit with you/your family?”
- “May I tell you about an added service we have to help link patients to support services such as food, transportation, housing? (yes!) Great! Yes, by asking you a few questions we can help you find services that can help with things like transportation, housing and food. It only takes a few minutes...may I start?”
- “As part of your visit today we’d like to help with other resources to help you/your family maintain your health. Some examples of these include food, housing, utility assistance and transportation. Could we ask you a few questions to see if you have any needs in these areas?”