

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Servings Secures Accreditation Status from Food is Medicine Coalition

New Standard Set for Medically Tailored Meal Intervention that Improves Health Outcomes

BOSTON (December 17, 2024) – <u>Community Servings</u>, a nonprofit provider of medically tailored meals and nutrition services, and a leader in "food is medicine" research, advocacy and policy, today announced that it has earned accreditation from the Food is Medicine Coalition. The accreditation involves rigorous criteria and requirements for the provision of medically tailored meals, a lifesaving intervention for individuals with severe, complex or chronic health conditions such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and HIV/AIDS.

The Food is Medicine Coalition recently set standards to ensure that all accredited agencies provide the same level of service nationally regardless of size, location, or number of clients. The accreditation recognizes agencies that are successfully established to provide impactful health outcomes through nutrition programs.

"Our entire organization is honored to be among the first agencies to achieve accreditation from the Food is Medicine Coalition. This accreditation is a significant milestone, providing healthcare providers, government agencies, and those we serve with the assurance that our medically tailored meals can deliver measurable health outcomes.," said David B. Waters, CEO of Community Servings. "For over 30 years, we have led a nationwide movement to expand access to nutritious, healing food, advance research into its benefits, and advocate for policies that improve patient care while reducing healthcare costs. Accreditation sets a new benchmark for quality, distinguishing us from other meal programs without such rigorous standards.

The accreditation covers both of Community Servings' facilities, including its headquarters and kitchen hub in Boston as well as its regional meal distribution center in Mansfield. The process involves eight pillars of accreditation: general requirements, fully integrated registered dietitian nutritionists, client referrals and services, nutrition care, medical tailoring, food safety, community volunteer-supported services, and HIPAA compliance.

Community Servings joins other leading medically tailored meal providers in Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York City, San Diego and Washington, D.C. that have received FIMC accreditation in recent months.

"We congratulate Community Servings, one of our coalition's founding members, on their achievement in accreditation," said Alissa Wassung, executive director of the Food is Medicine Coalition. "This accreditation standard is central to scaling equitable access to this lifesaving intervention, and Community Servings has been a key standard-bearer with their commitment to quality and expanding the model to other nonprofit organizations emerging in the field."

About Community Servings

Founded in 1990, Community Servings' mission is to actively engage the community to provide medically tailored, nutritious, scratch-made meals to chronically and critically ill individuals and their families. We commit, in all our programs and business practices, to prioritize racial and economic justice and health equity. To help clients maintain their health and dignity, we provide culturally appropriate meals, nutrition education and counseling, and other community programs. Our kitchen team, with support from thousands of volunteers, prepares over 1 million medically tailored meals that are served to more than 6,500 clients annually. For more information about programs and opportunities to volunteer or donate, please visit www.servings.org.

###