

Utah Medicaid Justice-Involved Program

frequently asked questions

What is the Medicaid justice-involved program?

The new Medicaid justice-involved program provides a limited coverage of targeted services for individuals incarcerated in a state prison, county jail, or juvenile justice facility for up to 90 days prior to the individual's expected release date.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Utah Medicaid's 1115 Demonstration Waiver (formally titled: "Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration") on July 2, 2024. Utah Medicaid submitted the demonstration waiver at the direction of House Bill 38, Substance Use and Healthcare Amendments, which passed during the 2020 General Legislative Session.

What services will Medicaid now cover for incarcerated individuals?

Key services that will be covered include, but are not limited to, intensive case management, Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services for all types of Substance Use Disorders (SUD), a 30-day supply of prescription medication upon release, targeted outpatient services, lab and radiology services, diagnosis and treatment of physical and behavioral health conditions, and screening for housing related services.

The coverage of these targeted services is designed to improve care transitions of incarcerated individuals back to the community. This includes promoting continuity of coverage, service receipt, and quality of care, as well as the proactive identification of both physical and behavioral healthcare needs.

How will this program benefit incarcerated individuals?

With this program, Utah Medicaid intends to build a bridge to community based care for incarcerated individuals, offering them services to stabilize their condition(s) and establish a re-entry plan prior to release.

Utah Medicaid anticipates that incarcerated individuals who participate will experience lower rates of recidivism, a reduction in the number of emergency room visits and inpatient hospitalizations, and reduced rates of death and overdoses after release.

How will correctional facilities participate in the program?

In order to participate in this program, state prisons, county jails, and youth correctional facilities will be required to demonstrate how they will meet the program requirements through a readiness assessment (see link provided below).

The correctional facility readiness assessment will assess the ability of the correctional facilities to implement and support the focus areas listed below:

- Utah Medicaid application process
- 90-day pre-release eligibility and behavioral health linkage screening
- 90-day pre-release service delivery
- Re-entry planning and coordination
- Oversight and project management

When will the program be implemented?

Utah Medicaid will work closely with correctional agencies to work toward readiness by a proposed go-live date.

What additional resources are available?

- [Medicaid member guide](#)
- [Medicaid website](#)
- [Utah's Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration webpage](#)
- [Utah's Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration Justice Involved Amendment](#)
- Utah Department of Health and Human Services Implementation Readiness Assessment-Correctional Facilities
- For **benefit and coverage questions**, contact a Medicaid Health Program Representative: (801) 538-6155 or 1-800-662-9651 or hpr@utah.gov
- For **administrative questions** related to this new program, email: medicaidjusticewaiver@utah.gov