

Fast Facts: Assisting the Criminal Justice Population

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Background Information

Incarcerated defined:

Serving a term in prison or jail

NOT incarcerated: probation, parole, home confinement, work release, or “in jail/prison pending disposition of charges”

- Medicaid enrollees entering incarceration:
 - Benefits are **suspended**—not discontinued
 - Department of Corrections (DOC) is responsible for reporting incarceration
 - Required to ask offender about Medicaid coverage during intake process

House Enrolled Act 1269 (2015)

- Offenders incarcerated **30 days or more** must receive assistance applying for Medicaid coverage
 - Application should be started early enough that an offender's eligibility can be determined prior to release date
- Inmate Presumptive Eligibility (PE)
 - Allows for reimbursement for inpatient hospitalization services for inmates
 - Available for one year from PE application date
 - Full IHCP application should also be submitted

Key Partners

County Jails	Federal Prisons	State Prisons
Halfway Houses	Probation/Parole Offices	Attorneys/Public Defenders
Judges	Reentry Councils	Advocacy Groups

Indiana Organizations

- Hoosier Initiative for Re-Entry and WorkOne offices (Department of Workforce Development)
- Public Advocates in Community Re-Entry (PACE)
- Connect 2 Help (2-1-1) offers a list of other programs.



Conversations with Partners

- Contact administration offices
- Educate correctional staff and management about **House Enrolled Act 1269**
- Discuss the role that health coverage can have in reducing re-offense
- Cost savings – counties that participate are responsible for just 0%-33% of cost for inmate inpatient stays
- Propose a process to incorporate application in discharge planning or hold pre-enrollment classes

Inmate Re-entry

Submit IHCP application **60 days prior** to release

Notice will be generated informing Offender of the Medicaid determination

If the application is approved, the notice will inform the Offender that Medicaid benefits are suspended

Upon release, former Offender contacts DFR to “activate” coverage (instructions on notice)

Suspend removed, notice of coverage sent to released Offender

IHCP Approval/Suspension

AGGGEDYOUNNNG AAGGEDYOUOUONG
123 ST
INDY, IN 47011

- ✓ Dear AGGGEDYOUNNNG AAGGEDYOUOUONG,
- ✓
- ✓ Your Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) application dated (insert date) has been **suspended** because:
 - ✓ You meet all of the eligibility requirements for the Healthy Indiana Plan except that **you are an inmate of a prison or jail**. During this incarceration period you are not eligible for health coverage benefits unless you are admitted as an inpatient in a hospital.
 - ✓ If you do become an inpatient in a hospital, the prison or jail may help you apply for inmate hospitalization coverage at the hospital.

HEALTHLINC'S EXPERIENCES



Starting the Partnerships

- Contacted by a County Sheriff's office
- Had a meeting with all local Sheriffs and nurses
 - Nurses are key contacts
 - Brought in a trusted area in the jail with a Sheriff
 - Key area location, two desks, local Sheriff inside
 - IT department set us up with internet (guest password)
 - Use our laptops and minimal items

Completing the Application

Household Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Typically just the inmate
Household members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most inmates do not know family members' information• Most of the mothers claim children
Mailing Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Typically use the inmate's home address• Use the jail's address depending on release date.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jail typically doesn't want all their mail
Phone Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The inmate's personal number• At times, use cell phone which is often with family at home
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Documentation verifying citizenship/immigration is recommended; HOWEVER, you can submit an application without it• The DFR will work with you and/or the inmate to complete the application

Best Practices

- Urge inmates to call the DFR upon release
- Health Literacy is low
 - Start with basic education about their health coverage options
- Provide brochures and flyers to inmates who then:
 - Share with their families at visitation
 - Keep for their own use when released
- Provide business cards and share that we can help them afterwards to get coverage and care
- The jails provide inmates a letter if they are released before they see us.
 - Clinic information and contact information is on the back side of the letter.



LaPorte County Sheriff's Office
SHERIFF JOHN T. BOYD
JAIL COMMANDER CAPTAIN HEATH HAFERKAMP

JAIL DIVISION
809 State Street, Suite 201A
LaPorte, IN 46350
Phone - (219) 326-7700

Dear Indiana Resident,

Effective September 1, 2015, Indiana Sheriffs are required to submit an application to Medicaid for those individuals who have been incarcerated in the County Jail longer than 30 days and are being released to the Community or Community Corrections. As your Authorized Representative, we will file your application on your behalf.

After the application is filed, you will be receiving information in the mail from the FSSA/Indiana Medicaid. They may ask for additional information. If so, please make every effort to provide them with the requested information. You may receive a letter stating that your application has been approved or denied.

After an application is approved, your privileges will be suspended until you are released. Upon your release, please use the contact information on the reverse side of this letter to contact a local Certified Navigator to help you start or complete the process. This service is free of charge to you. There are several health care centers in the community that assist in the Medicaid process and provide medical services to those that have Medicaid coverage.

The object of this new law is to ensure that all Indiana residents have insurance coverage so that you may receive medical or mental health treatment at any time. Medicaid or HIP 2.0 is now an income-based program. This is why the law has changed on who should apply for Medicaid. This coverage is a benefit that some have not been able to have in the past and we will assist you with the application process. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

The La Porte County Sheriff's Office

← *Letter to inmates
upon release*



Other Advice and Experiences

- Working one-on-one with the Chief Deputy
- We have not become Authorized Representatives (ARs) for inmates because:
 - We are unsure of incarceration periods
 - We may not have the ability to contact them if needed.
- Worked with county jail staff on referrals upon an inmate's release

Resources

- Program information contact:
indianainmatemedicaid@fssa.in.gov
- [Presumptive Eligibility for Inmates Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [Medicaid for Inmates Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Presumptive Eligibility for Inmates – Application Process](#)
- [Medicaid for Incarcerated Individuals](#)
- [Families USA – Reaching the Justice Population](#)

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