



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

Community Reentry Demonstration 1115 Waiver Application

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Agenda

- Waiver timeline
- Legislative history
- Current Medicaid coverage policies
- Future coverage policies under this waiver
- Public comment



Timeline

- October 1-31, 2026 — Public comment period
- December 2026 — DHS plans to submit waiver application to CMS
 - The waiver is due January 1, 2027
- 2027 (estimated) — CMS waiver review
- 2028 (estimated) — CMS negotiations
- 2029 (estimated) — Begin implementation



Legislative History

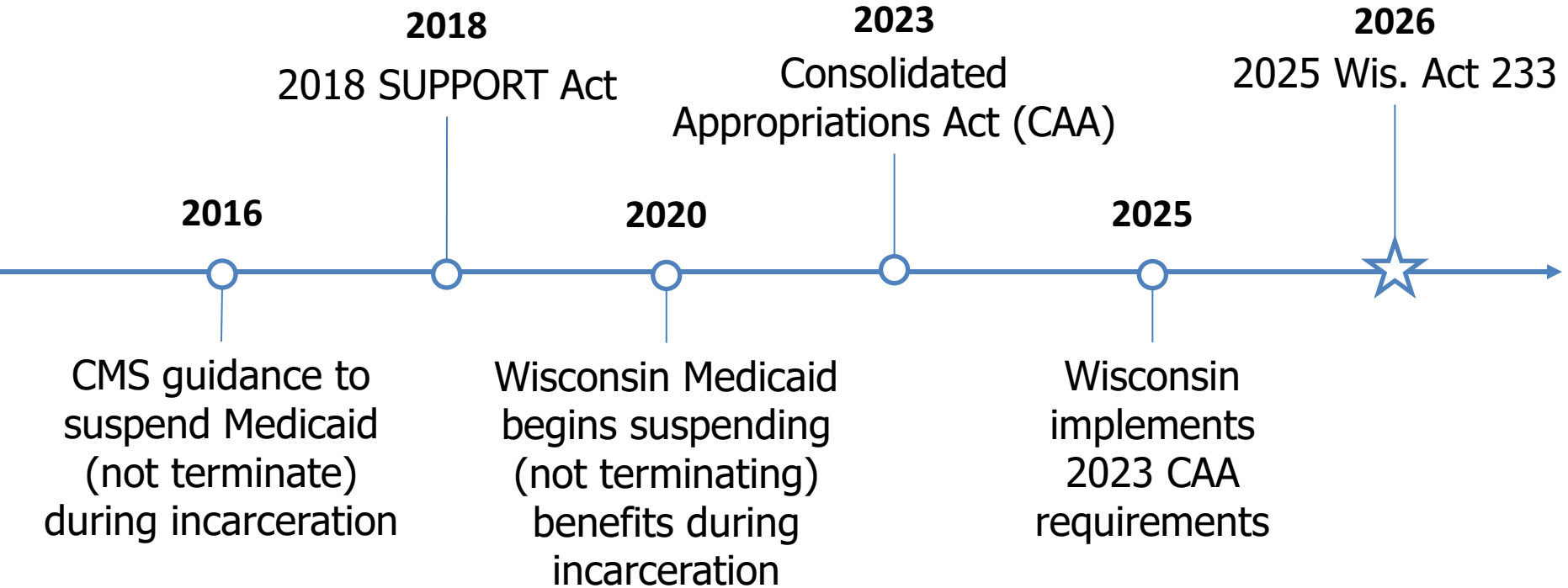


Inmate Exclusion

- People held in a prison or jail can still be eligible for Medicaid in Wisconsin.
- Federal Medicaid only covers hospital stays over 24 hours while someone is incarcerated, but not other care.
- This rule is called the “Inmate Exclusion.”



Medicaid and Incarceration





2025 WI Act 233

Enacted April 8, 2026

Waiver application due to CMS by January 1, 2027. It would provide:

- Medicaid coverage of limited services during the 90-day pre-release period:
 - Case management services
 - Medication-assisted treatment for all types of substance use disorders
 - A 30-day supply of prescription medications upon release

See <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/acts/233>



Current Medicaid Coverage Policies



Case Management

A collaborative process where a professional assesses and coordinates a person's **medical, behavioral, and social support needs**.

- Wisconsin Medicaid covers case management for certain groups, but not when a person is in prison or jail.
- Prisons and jails provide some case management services as individuals prepare for reentry into the community.
- Case management services are different at each facility.



Medication-Assisted Treatment

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) combines medication with counseling, therapy, and peer support to treat substance use disorders. It's a proven, whole-person approach.

- Wisconsin Medicaid covers MAT, but not when a person is in prison or jail.
- Wisconsin prisons and jails provide some MAT to patients.
- MAT is different at each facility.



Prescription Drug Coverage

- Some prisons and jails provide prescription drugs for people when they are released, but this is not required.
 - Currently, Medicaid can't pay for these prescription drugs even if the person is enrolled.
- Without these drugs at release, a member would need to:
 - Schedule a doctor's appointment.
 - See a doctor to get a prescription.
 - Go to the pharmacy to pick up prescriptions.



Future Policies Under This Waiver



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Goals

- 1. Increase coverage, continuity of coverage, and appropriate service uptake** through assessment of eligibility and availability of coverage for benefits in correctional settings just prior to release.
- 2. Improve access to services** prior to release and improve transitions and continuity of care into the community upon release and during reentry.
- 3. Improve coordination and communication** between correctional systems, Medicaid systems, managed care plans, and community-based providers.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Goals (*cont.*)

4. **Increase additional investments in health care and related services**, aimed at improving the quality of care for beneficiaries in correctional settings and in the community to maximize successful reentry post-release
5. **Improve connections** between correctional settings and community services upon release to address physical health, behavioral health, and health-related social needs (HRSN).
6. **Reduce all-cause deaths** in the near-term post-release.



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Goals (*cont.*)

7. **Reduce the number of emergency department visits and inpatient hospitalizations** among recently incarcerated Medicaid beneficiaries through increased receipt of preventive and routine physical and behavioral health care.
- * **Build trusting relationships with case managers** to enable thoughtful care planning that meets members' health care needs and health-related social needs to support successful implementation of the care plan.



Eligibility Requirements

- Will not remove anyone's ability to get Medicaid eligibility.
- Will expand eligibility to include more people who are in a correctional facility.
- Adults and children are eligible if they:
 - Are legally defined as an inmate of a public institution, as specified in 42 CFR 435.1010.
 - Are incarcerated in a state prison, local jail, tribal correctional facility, youth correctional facility, or other DHS correctional facility after their case has been decided in court.
 - Are enrolled in or otherwise eligible to receive Medicaid or CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program).



Benefits Coverage

If approved, Wisconsin Medicaid would cover these services during the 90 days before release:

- Case management services
- Medication-assisted treatment for all types of substance use disorders
- 30-day supply of prescription medications upon release



Planned Roll Out

- CMS requires states to assess how ready a facility is to offer services and bill Medicaid.
- DHS will start with facilities that are ready.
- DHS will help other facilities prepare to participate in the future.

Contacts and Resources



- DHSDMSReentryWaiver@dhs.wisconsin.gov



- dhs.wi.gov/medicaid/reentrywaiver.htm



- medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/reentry-section-1115-demonstrations

Submit Comments

Written comments are welcome **October 1-31, 2026.**

- **Email:** DHSReentryWaiver@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- **Mail:** Waukesha State Office Building
Department of Health Services
Attn: Wisconsin 1115 Re-Entry Waiver
141 NW Barstow St. Ste 126
Waukesha, WI 53188-3789
- **Fax:** 262-521-5388 (Attn: Nicholas Di Meo)

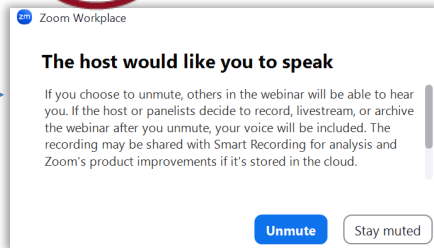
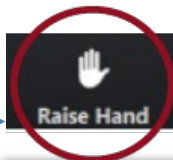
How to Comment

We will call on people in order. Comments are limited to three minutes to allow time for everyone who wishes to speak.

Smart Phone or Computer

Select “Raise Hand”

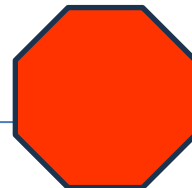
You will see a prompt to unmute when it's your turn



Telephone

- Press *9
- Press *6 to unmute
- Press *6 to mute

Minutes
Remaining





Thank you!



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