

Wisconsin Department of Health Services — Section 1115 Community Reentry Waiver

I. Overview

This notice serves to meet these federal requirements and to notify the public that, as required by 2025 WI Act 233, the State of Wisconsin intends to submit an application to CMS by January 1, 2027, requesting a new 1115 Waiver that would provide coverage for some services to Medicaid-enrolled individuals up to 90 days before they are released from a correctional facility.

Services Covered

These services include:

- **Case management**, starting up to 90 days before release, to help connect people with health care, housing, and other support they'll need in the community.
- **Medication-assisted treatment (MAT)** for any substance use disorder, starting up to 90 days before release.
- **A 30-day supply of prescription medications** on the day the person is released.

Demonstration Population, Eligibility, and Enrollment

This demonstration proposal will provide limited Medicaid benefits during the 90-day period before an eligible individual's release from incarceration, following adjudication of charges. For people whose release date is determined with less than a 90-day notice, services will begin as soon as feasible after the release date is known. Eligible individuals are adults and children who meet the following qualifying criteria:

1. Meet the definition of an inmate of a public institution, as specified in 42 CFR 435.1010, and be incarcerated in a state prison, local jail, tribal correctional facility, or youth correctional facility following adjudication of charges, and;
2. Be enrolled in or otherwise eligible to receive Medicaid or CHIP.

This Demonstration will not restrict any existing Medicaid eligibility; rather, it will expand eligibility to include more people experiencing incarceration.

Implementation

DHS intends to implement the demonstration statewide as soon as possible after CMS approval. DHS will take a phased approach to implementation across facilities based on their readiness to meet all state and federal requirements for the waiver. Implementation will begin with facilities that can demonstrate readiness, but Wisconsin Medicaid will also work with lower-capacity facilities to prepare for eventual implementation through readiness assessments and capacity building opportunities.

Public Comment

Providing information and obtaining input from the public on changes is of high importance for the State as we prepare to submit the request. By law, you have the opportunity to review the official waiver application and to provide comments for 31 days, starting October 1, 2026 and ending October 31, 2026. You may also provide comments through written or verbal statements during public hearings (refer to the following sections). Public comments will be included in the waiver amendment request submitted to CMS and will be available on the DHS website at the address listed below.

Public Hearing

DHS will hold a virtual public hearing on October 14, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Join online through Zoom at <https://dhswi.zoomgov.com/j/1654633295>.

Or join by phone:

Dial: US: +1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose), or +1 646 828 7666 US (New York), or +1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose), or +1 551 285 1373 US (New Jersey)
Webinar ID: 165 463 3295

Copies of Waiver Documents

Copies of waiver documents, including the full public notice (to be posted on October 1, 2026), the draft application, and the final waiver application, once complete, may be obtained from DHS at no charge by downloading the documents at dhs.wi.gov/medicaid/reentrywaiver.htm or by contacting Nicholas Di Meo at:

Mail: Nicholas Di Meo

Waukesha State Office Building
Department of Health Services, Division of Medicaid Services
141 NW Barstow St. Rm 126
Waukesha, WI 53188

Email: DHSDMSReentryWaiver@dhs.wisconsin.gov

XII. Written Comments

Written comments on the proposed changes are welcome and will be accepted from October 1, 2026, through October 31, 2026. Written comments may be sent to:

Mail: Nicholas Di Meo

Waukesha State Office Building

Department of Health Services, Division of Medicaid Services

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Waukesha, WI 53188

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