

Louisiana Reentry Demonstration

Public Hearings

Agenda

- Background
- Louisiana 1115 Waiver Reentry Demonstration overview
- Public comment period details

Background

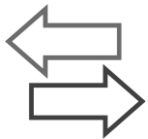
Louisiana Reentry Demonstration Background

- The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is pursuing a Medicaid 1115 waiver to expand access to healthcare services and facilitate enrollment in Medicaid managed care before individuals are released from prison or jail.
 - This “Reentry Demonstration” aims to facilitate transitions back into the community, particularly for those with mental health and substance use needs, to make sure individuals have the health coverage, medications, and connections with community-based providers upon release.
- **Corrections System Structure:** Louisiana's corrections system includes 8 state prisons and 92 local facilities.
 - **High Incarceration Rates:** Louisiana has one of the highest imprisonment rates in the U.S. with 596 prisoners per 100,000 residents. Approximately, 13,000 people are released from prisons and jails each year.
 - **Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder (SUD):** 28% of prisoners have a mental illness, while about 73% struggle with substance use disorder.

What is an 1115 Medicaid waiver?



- Waivers are a mechanism through which states can request exemptions from select Medicaid program statutory requirements.



- 1115 waivers are **research** and **demonstration** waivers that provide states with authority to test innovative program ideas affecting large portions of the Medicaid population (as opposed to a 1915(c) waiver for home & community-based services).



- 1115 waivers must be budget neutral to the federal government.

Overview of Federal Waiver Authority

Incarceration and Medicaid Coverage

- Federal law does not generally allow the use of federal funds to pay for Medicaid services for individuals who are incarcerated.
- Currently, when individuals are incarcerated, their Medicaid benefits are suspended until they are released back into the community.
 - Due to the disruption in coverage, individuals may face difficulties in accessing the care they need to maintain health and recovery as they transition back into the community.

<https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/smd23003.pdf>

New Federal Reentry 1115 Waiver Opportunity

- **Pre-Release Coverage Option:** States can provide Medicaid services to eligible inmates in prisons, jails, or both, for a set amount of time before they are released.
- **Federal Financial Support:** Under this opportunity, states may obtain federal funding to pay for healthcare services that were previously paid for only by state or local funds.
- **Pre-Release Services:** At minimum, states must cover case management, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and a 30-day supply of medications upon release. States have the option to cover additional services.

Louisiana Reentry Demonstration Overview

Goals of the Louisiana Reentry Demonstration

Reentry Demonstration Goals

- Increasing coverage, continuity of coverage, and appropriate service uptake for benefits in carceral settings prior to release
- Improving access to services prior to release and improving transitions and continuity of care
- Improving coordination and communication between correctional systems, Medicaid, and providers
- Increasing additional investments in healthcare and related services to maximize successful reentry
- Improving connections between carceral settings and community services to address physical health, behavioral health, and health-related social needs
- Reducing all cause deaths in the near-term post release
- Reducing overdose deaths within 12 months of release
- Reducing the number of emergency department visits and inpatient hospitalizations among those who were recently incarcerated

Key Reentry Demonstration Components



Carceral Facilities

All state prisons will participate. The demonstration will be implemented on a pilot basis in up to 13 parish jails, which will be onboarded in a phased approach.



Eligible Individuals

Medicaid-eligible individuals incarcerated in participating adult facilities will be enrolled in Medicaid managed care with coverage of demonstration services.



Pre-Release Timeframe

Enrollment and service coverage will begin 90 days before the individual's release date.

Key Reentry Demonstration Components



Pre-Release Services

Covered services during the 90-day pre-release period include:

1. Case management
2. Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and counseling
3. A 30-day supply of prescription medications upon release
4. Mental health evaluation and counseling
5. Peer support services
6. Laboratory services
7. Durable medical equipment (DME)



Demonstration Providers

Both facility-based and contracted DPS&C staff and community-based providers will be leveraged to deliver covered services either in-person or via telehealth.

Public Comment Period Details

Public Notice & Comment Process

- The proposed waiver application along with other related documentation can be found on the LDH website.
 - ldh.la.gov/1115reentry
 - Individuals may also request a hard copy of the waiver application via mail.
- How to submit comments:
 - **Verbally** during the public hearings
 - **Written** via mail or e-mail
- Following the notice and comment period, comments will be reviewed, summarized, and assessed to determine if changes need to be made to the waiver.

The public notice and comment period is open for 30 days
August 1, 2024 – August 30, 2024

How to Submit Comments

Written Comments

- Email to: 1115reentry@la.gov
- Mail to:
 Missy Graves
 P.O. BOX 4049
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Verbal Comments

Public Hearing #1 (MCAC Meeting)	Public Hearing #2 (General Public Meeting)
August 13, 2024 1:00pm Bienville Building 628 North 4 th Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802 Also available for virtual participation	August 16, 2024 12:00pm Shreveport Behavioral Health Clinic 1210 North Hearne Avenue Shreveport, LA 71107 Also available for virtual participation
Visit ldh.la.gov/1115reentry for Zoom links	

THANK YOU

