

# Medicaid Enrollment in Missouri Jails Initiative

Support reentry, save jail funding, and improve the health and safety of your community

A new, **free** program helps Missouri jails to begin enrolling people in Medicaid while they are incarcerated, with the goals of preventing recidivism, reducing health care costs, & increasing community wellbeing.

The programs are run by jail staff but utilize community health workers and volunteers to assist incarcerated people apply for Medicaid. Eligible people who are enrolled while in jail have Medicaid coverage immediately upon their release.



## Medicaid enrollment in jails...

### ...Supports Successful Reentry

Access to Medicaid helps people stay healthy and keep jobs. Medicaid also reduces recidivism, especially for crimes linked to mental and behavioral health issues.

Florida saw a **16% reduction** in recidivism among individuals with severe mental illness.

### ...Reduces Jail Costs

Healthcare exhausts 20% of criminal justice budgets. Medicaid enrollment allows jails to avoid costs for healthcare services received outside the jail.

North Carolina saved **\$10 million in one year**.

### ...Improves Community Health

Individuals enrolled in Medicaid before release are more likely to receive timely mental and behavioral health services, including addiction services, which reduces addiction-related crime.

New Mexico saw **recidivism decrease by 72%** and **ER visits by 64%**.

Missouri Appleseed, working with the St. Louis County Jail, received funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health to provide **free training, consultation, and supplies** for county and city jails to begin implementing Medicaid enrollment inside their jails.

*For information on how to bring the project to your community jail, contact Mary Quandt at [mquandt@appleseednetwork.org](mailto:mquandt@appleseednetwork.org).*



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