

Medicaid Enrollment in Missouri Jails Initiative

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

A **free** program helps Missouri jails 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 and use volunteers to assist incarcerated people to apply for Medicaid. Eligible people who are enrolled while in jail have Medicaid coverage immediately upon their release.



The program has shown itself to be a low risk, high reward opportunity, for individuals and the community. - Sheriff Jason Klaus, Perry County

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%**.

I estimate we're saving over one million dollars in St. Louis County alone through costs that are now being paid by Medicaid. - retired Jail Administrator Scott Anders, St. Louis County

Missouri Appleseed provides free training, consultation, and supplies for county and city jails to implement Medicaid enrollment inside their jails. For information on how to bring the project to your community jail, contact Mary Quandt at mquandt@appleseednetwork.org.

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