

# Medicaid for Incarcerated Individuals

February 2026



# Federal Law

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- ✓ The Social Security Act Section 1905(a) prohibits Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for medical care or services for any individual who is an inmate of a public institution.
- ✓ **Medical Institution Exception:**
  - Incarcerated individuals who are expected to be hospitalized for a 24-hour period or longer at a medical institution are not considered to be an inmate during that time and can be covered by Medicaid if otherwise eligible.

# Two Profiles

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## ✓ Incarcerated and seeking inpatient treatment

- Jail - Hospital - Back to Jail/Released during Inpatient Stay
- Inmate PE

*Inmate PE*

## ✓ Incarcerated and pending release

- Jail - Prepare for Reentry - Release
- Indiana Health Coverage Programs(IHCP) Application

*Re-entry*

# Inmate PE

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# Inmate PE: State Law

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- ✓ Effective July 1, 2015, House Enrolled Act 1269 (2015) allows for reimbursement for medical care and services provided by a health care provider, including a hospital, to an inmate for inpatient hospitalization services.
- ✓ The state will utilize PE Systems to review eligibility and provide payment to hospitals for covered services.

# Presumptive Eligibility - PE

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- Since January 1, 2014, acute care hospitals have been able to enroll as Presumptive Eligibility (PE) qualified providers (QPs). PE QPs may assist qualifying individuals in certain aid categories to receive temporary coverage until eligibility for the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) is officially determined by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA).
- Categories eligible for PE coverage include infants, children, parents/caretakers, former foster children, pregnant women, and adults, including those seeking family planning services only.
- **Typically, to qualify for PE coverage, applicants may not be incarcerated.**

# Inmate PE

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- ✓ Inmates enrolled through PE process **will not** receive a standard benefits package; rather, inmates are eligible for **inpatient hospitalization services only**.
- ✓ Claims are to be submitted and paid through the fee-for-service delivery system.
- ✓ Coverage for inpatient hospitalization services is available for **one year from PE application date (or until notification of release) if a full IHCP application is submitted and approved**. If a full IHCP application is not submitted, coverage ends on the last day of the month following PE application date.

# Medicaid for Incarcerated Individuals

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- ✓ Applies only to Medicaid covered inpatient hospital care only
  - Does not cover ER, ER observation or outpatient care
  - Does not cover pregnant inmates
- ✓ Will follow a two-step eligibility process:
  - Step 1 - Presumptive Eligibility
  - Step 2 - Full IHCP Application



# Medicaid for Incarcerated Individuals – Step 1

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*Inmate PE*

- ✓ Hospitals that are part of today's PE program will be able to process PE for incarcerated individuals.
- ✓ PE allows for:
  - Same-day eligibility determination
  - Unique Member ID hospital can use to bill
  - Time limited eligibility
- ✓ PE can be done at the hospital through a quick web-based tool. It is available 24 hours a day.

# Inmate PE Limited to Certain “Qualified Provider” Hospitals

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- ✓ *To facilitate Presumptive Eligibility for Inmates, the hospital facility must be a prior authorized “Qualified Provider” registered through this program and have access to Presumptive Eligibility applications through the IHCP Provider Healthcare Portal (IHCP Portal).*
- ✓ *For coverage of any inpatient care, the qualified provider has up to seven days from inpatient admission date to backdate the PE application.*

# What Does Jail Do?

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- ✓ Find participating hospitals in your area:  
<http://provider.indianamedicaid.com/ihcp/ProviderServices/ProviderSearch.aspx>
- ✓ Prisoner needs inpatient hospital treatment - exceeding 24 hours. Not ER visit, not labor and delivery
- ✓ Complete prisoner profile questionnaire, if possible (see following slide)
- ✓ Encourage hospital staff to do PE
- ✓ Retain PE determination letter on-site; keep for records

# Prepare for Your Hospital Visit

## Have These Offender Answers Ready

*Inmate PE*

- ✓ Initial PE application - Have the answers to the following questions:

Full Name*
DOB*
Home Address*
Mailing Address (consider using your correctional facility address)
Phone Number (consider using your correctional facility number if supporting calls)
SSN
Race
Ethnicity
Gender*
Marital Status
Indiana Resident Y or N*
Currently Incarcerated Y or N*
If Y to above, select registered facilities from drop down menu*
Pregnant Y or N*
# of People in Family*
US Citizen Y or N*
Family Income (enter and select monthly or annually)*
Do you have a pending Indiana Application for Healthcare Coverage
Do you have existing healthcare coverage
Are you covered by Medicare*
Were you in a foster home on your 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday?*
Do you have any children under 18 and are the main caretaker*

# Medicaid for Incarcerated Individuals – Step 2

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*Inmate PE*

- ✓ Complete the full Indiana Health Coverage Application
- ✓ Can work as authorized representative (AR) or partner with any Indiana navigator/navigator organization to complete the full application.
- ✓ Find a Navigator:  
<https://in.accessgov.com/idoi/Forms/Page/idoi/find-a-navigator/0>

# Medicaid for Incarcerated Individuals – Step 2 Continued

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Inmate PE

Why complete the full application?

- ✓ Required next step in the process.
- ✓ Only fully determined individuals can get enhanced “newly eligible” match rates.
- ✓ Completing the application will ***lower your costs.***

# Medicaid for Incarcerated Individuals

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- ✓ Goal of this program is to reduce your current costs. You only pay the State portion.
- ✓ Typical match rate for PE-only individuals:
  - 65% Federal; 33% State
- ✓ HIP newly eligible match rate:
  - 100% Federal; 0% State in 2017
  - 90% Federal; 10% State in 2020

# How Can We Participate?

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- ✓ Contact [IndianaInmateMedicaid@fssa.in.gov](mailto:IndianaInmateMedicaid@fssa.in.gov) to ask for a copy of the county contract.
- ✓ Sign and return the contract.
- ✓ Take prisoners to hospitals that participate in the PE program.
- ✓ Encourage hospital to do a PE application on individuals who may need an inpatient stay.
- ✓ The hospital knows how to bill Medicaid for services delivered to a person with Inmate PE.



# State Law

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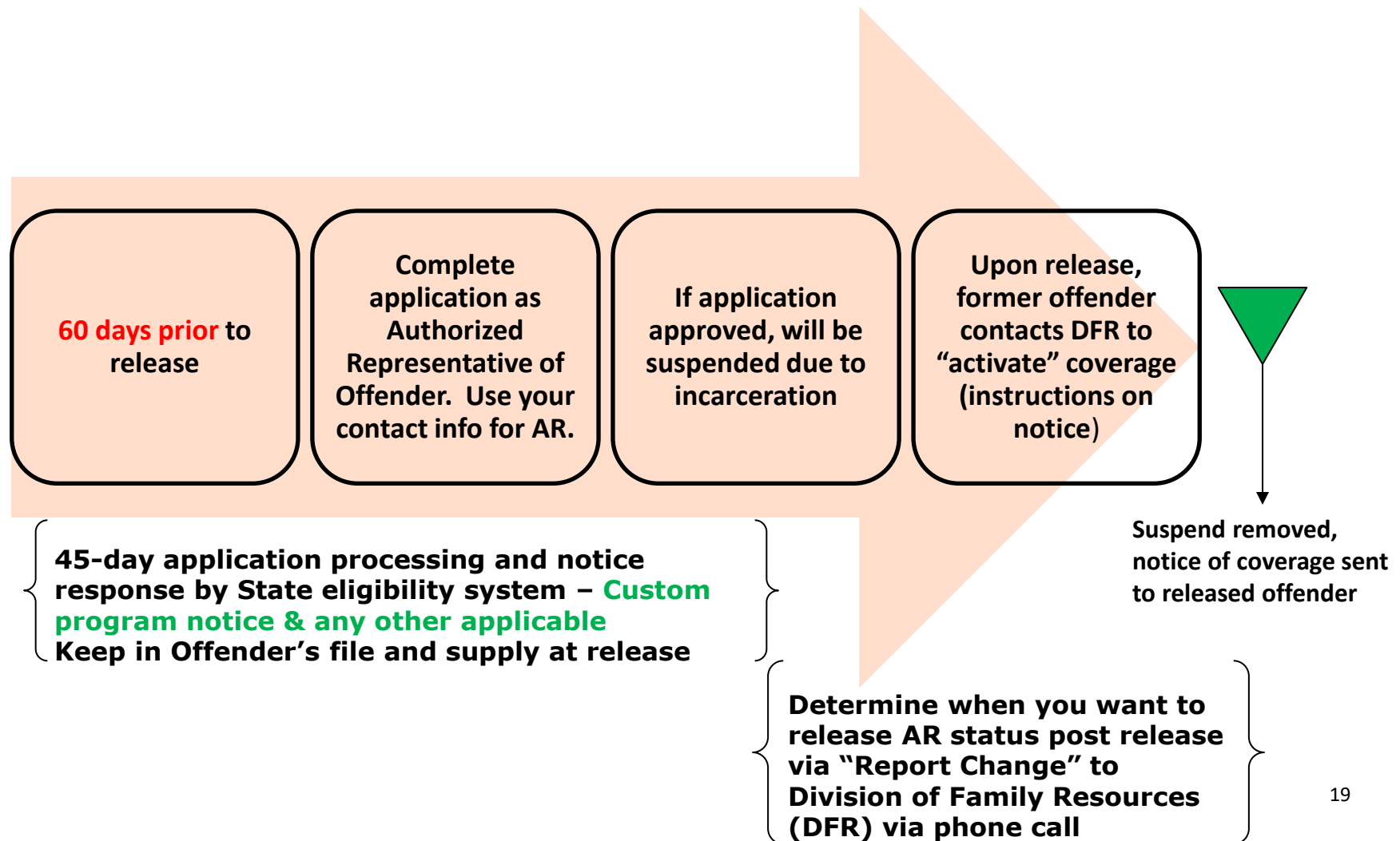
- ✓ Effective beginning September 1, 2015. (HEA 1269)  
Before discharge or release from a county jail of an offender incarcerated for at least 30 days, the sheriff, in consultation with the county executive or a person designated by the county executive in the county in which the incarcerated person is located shall assist the offender in applying for Medicaid, if eligible, as the authorized representative as described in *Indiana Code IC 11-10-3-7* or as a health navigator under the requirements of *IC 27-19-2-12*, so that the offender might be eligible for coverage when the offender is subsequently released from the county jail.

# Full IHCP Application – Re-entry

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- ✓ Incarcerated and pending release
  - Jail - Prepare for Reentry - Release
  - Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) Application

# Inmate Healthcare: Re-entry Timeline



# Full IHCP Application What to Expect?

*Re-entry*

## Application completed

You will receive a notice that indicates application successful but coverage suspended, or you may get a request for additional information. KEEP THESE NOTICES IN PRISONER FILE!



## Upon release, provide prisoner the notices received to date

IMPORTANT! The prisoner **MUST** follow instructions on the suspended notice to reinstate (“activate”) their healthcare coverage upon release!



## Jail contacts DFR to release their Authorized Rep status

Authorized Rep status can be removed by jail or by former prisoner. BUT MUST BE REQUESTED (not automatic upon release!!)

# Full IHCP Application – Re-entry

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- ✓ Ideas on how to develop an application process?
  - Designate a staff person or team at the jail to function as Authorized Representative:
    - Monitor re-entry population and timetable
    - Assist prisoner in gathering required documentation
    - Assist prisoner in completing online application or do it for them
    - Supply prisoner appropriate paperwork related to their IHCP Application upon release, such as notices, determination letters, identification number
  - Note: When the authorized representative application is used, select **Apply** only.*
  - Consider reaching out to your local resources
    - Indiana Navigator Organization
    - Community Mental Health Center

## IHCP Tips:

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- ✓ Must be filled out by self, authorized representative or Indiana Navigator.
- ✓ Online application is best method to apply.
- ✓ General documentation requirements: birth certificate, income information (if any), Social Security number.
- ✓ Average time from application to determination: 45-60 days.
- ✓ Applications from inmates will be placed in “suspended status” until release.

# Resources for Application

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- ✓ Online portal for Indiana:  
<https://fssabenefits.in.gov/bp/#/>
- ✓ General Medicaid information:  
<https://www.in.gov/medicaid/members/>
- ✓ Telephone & web benefits support (DFR - after application is submitted):  
800-403-0864  
<https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/ebt-hoosier-works-card/find-my-local-dfr-office/>
- ✓ Currently working on alignment with regional/local healthcare Navigators for potential assistance with incarcerated population