

California's Justice-Involved Re-entry Initiative All County Call

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

10:00 am - 11:00 am PST

Housekeeping



» Please use either a computer or a phone for audio connection.



» Please mute your line when not speaking.



» Participants are encouraged to turn on their cameras during the meeting.



» Participants are encouraged to use the Q&A feature for questions.



» For questions or comments, please
calaimjusticeadvisorygroup@dhcs.ca.gov

Today's Agenda

- » Welcome and Brief Overview of New Meeting Series: All County Call
- » Justice-Involved (JI) Reentry Initiative Progress Updates
- » New Readiness Assessment Template and Demo
- » JI Screening Portal
- » Hot Topics and Forthcoming Guidance
- » MCP/CF MOU
- » The Why – Successful Reentry
- » Q&A
- » Closing

Purpose of the All-County Correctional Facility Call

- » The new meeting series will enable DHCS to provide regular program updates to CDCR, county adult jails and county youth correctional facilities (CFs) in the state to ensure all CFs receive consistent messaging.
- » Will allow CFs to share best practices and lessons learned.
- » DHCS will also use calls provide technical assistance and support county implementation efforts.
- » Meeting summaries and FAQs will be shared following each session.
- » The series is part of DHCS' larger monitoring and oversight strategy for the Justice-Involved (JI) Reentry Initiative

DHCS County Liaisons

- » The DHCS County Liaison is each correctional facility's primary point of contact to support implementation of the JI Reentry Initiative in each county.
 - **County to DHCS Touchpoint**
 - Assist with questions and technical assistance
 - Maintain regular check-ins
 - Communicate policy & operational updates
 - **Readiness Assessment (RA) Review**
 - Guide counties through RA requirements (old or new format)
 - Conduct RA evaluation
 - Coordinate internal consultation when needed
 - **Tracking & Documentation**
 - Maintain Readiness status
 - Log key communications & TA provided
 - Flag implementation risks early
 - **Liaison Meet & Greets and DHCS/county 1:1s**

The JI Reentry Initiative Comprises of Pre-Release and Reentry Components

Pre-Release

- » Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application Processes
- » 90 Days' Services Pre-Release (1115 Waiver)

Reentry and Transition Support

- » ECM
- » Behavioral Health Links
- » Community Supports
- » JI Reentry and Transition Providers

Member Stories – The Why



» *"While I was incarcerated, I kept hearing about people getting passes for pre-release care management. Eventually, I received one myself. I didn't know what to expect, but I never imagined how much I would learn about myself and my deep-rooted issues. Rebuilding my life after prison would have been so much harder without ECM—and especially without my incredible care manager. She became like family to me. Her compassion and support connected me to resources that helped me achieve my goals. Whenever I needed something and asked, she made sure I got the help. My self-esteem was at an all-time low, but thanks to ECM, I now have confidence and the tools to accomplish anything I set my mind to."*

- **Individual Served by the JI Reentry Initiative**

JI Reentry Initiative Impact – Program Highlights

(as of 11/15/25)

- » **Year One Impact Report Coming Soon!**
- » **23,000+** new Medi-Cal applications processed for eligible individuals in county jails and youth correctional facilities *(as of 11/1/25)*.
- » **34,956** incarcerated individuals screened and identified as eligible for pre-release services.
- » **159,000+** billable pre-release services and prescriptions delivered and claimed for reimbursement*.
- » **\$16 million** in new reimbursements to correctional facilities.

**This does not include services rendered without a submitted claim (i.e., due to claims lag as correctional facility billing systems are established). DHCS expects additional claims to be submitted for services rendered as a part of the Reentry Initiative to date.*

JI Reentry Initiative Impact – Program Highlights

(as of March 1, 2026)

- » **31** state prisons live with pre-release services
- » **54** county facilities in **15 counties** live with pre-release services
 - 35 Adult jails
 - 2 counties do not have an adult jail in the county
 - 19 Youth correctional facilities
 - 18 counties do not have a youth correctional facility in the county
- » **58** county behavioral health plans (BHPs) live with BH links
- » **24** Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) live with Enhanced Care Management and other Medi-Cal benefits

On the Horizon for 2026

- » DHCS is actively supporting the remaining counties and facilities to implement pre-release services statewide by providing ongoing technical assistance, operational guidance, and readiness support to ensure all facilities meet the **October 1, 2026, go-live deadline.**
 - 16 county entities have pending Readiness Assessments with DHCS
- » DHCS is seeking a renewal of its 1115 Waiver Authority to continue and strengthen the JI Reentry Initiative in the next waiver term.

Mandatory Go-Live by October 1, 2026

- » To comply with state law, all remaining county correctional facilities must go-live with the JI Reentry Initiative by October 1, 2026
- » DHCS will work with counties to ensure successful implementation
- » Correctional facilities may request conditional go-live status, attesting to readiness for core components (care management, MAT, medications in hand) and providing a timeline for full implementation within 12 months. Priority populations and system readiness must be identified prior to go-live.

State Mandate for Pre-Release Services and Behavioral Health Links

» **Pre-Release Services**

» [Welfare & Institutions Code section 14184.102](#) required DHCS to seek federal approval for and to implement the CalAIM initiative, which includes the provision of targeted pre-release Medi-Cal benefits to qualified individuals.

- Provides DHCS with authority to implement pre-release services by means of all-county letters, plan letters, provider bulletins, information notices, or similar instructions, without taking any further regulatory action.
- With the 1115 demonstration approved by CMS, the CalAIM Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) related to the Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative are mandatory per federal and state law.

- **Behavioral Health Links**

» CA Penal Code §4011.11 (2021) requires DHCS to develop and implement a mandatory process by which county jails and county juvenile facilities coordinate with Medi-Cal managed care plans and Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery systems to facilitate continued behavioral health treatment in the community for county jail inmates and juvenile inmates that were receiving behavioral health services before their release.

PATH Round 4 Update

- » DHCS has ~\$31 million available to award for PATH Round 4 (applications received for ~\$350 million in requests)
- » DHCS finalized PATH Round 4 awards; PCG will be sending award notices to county correctional facilities that were awarded additional funds.
- » Only county correctional facilities will receive a PATH Round 4 award as the explicit purpose of the additional funding is to support correctional facility implementation of pre-release services.
- » There will be three award categories with varying amounts:
 - County CFs making significant progress toward implementation (as reported to PCG on PATH progress reports and Executive Progress Reports) – 12 county agencies, awards capped at **\$1,000,000**
 - County CFs that have already gone live with pre-release services – 15 county agencies, awards capped at **\$600,000**
 - County CFs making some progress toward implementation - 32 county agencies, awards capped at **\$300,000**

New Readiness Assessment Template and Demo



Readiness Assessment – New Tools

- » Updated [Readiness Assessment Template](#) (PDF) and survey (via Nintex)
 - Conditional Go-Live and Phase Implementation Approvals.
 - Checklist of Go-Live Prerequisites.
 - Checklist of required documentation.
 - [Medi-Cal Preparedness Checklist](#).
 - Medi-Cal Rx Readiness and Resources Checklist.

JI Screening Portal Updates



JI Screening Portal (Lessons Learned)

The JI Screening Portal was initially a challenge for counties to manage.

- » DHCS engaged in human-centered design and extensive interviews with the early adopter counties to improve the JI Screening Portal user experience.
- » A new [JI Screening Portal User Guide](#) was published in October 2025.
- » Batch capabilities were introduced in September 2025.
- » The JI Application Programming Interface (API) will be available to start User Acceptance Testing (UAT) this Spring.

JI Screening Portal Updates

- » JI API – is a technical solution designed to allow correctional facilities (CF) who serve a high volume of JI individuals to electronically submit, update and manage Medi-Cal eligibility information as they prepare them for re-entry. The development team is currently seeking engagement from counties willing to engage in User Acceptance Testing to ensure the system operates as intended.
- » JI Multiple Screening Member feature uploads can now perform all seven transaction types-Inquiry, Activate, Terminate, Pause, Reset/Restart, and Deny through the portal up to 200 members.
- » The Residence County and Responsible County from MEDs has been added to the portal for visibility into the county information for each JI member. The fields are not for eligibility determination but informational.

Early Access Simulation (EAS)

- » The simulation environment helps CFs practice using the JI Screening Portal safely. Test materials let CF staff get familiar with essential workflows before their JI Reentry Initiative launch (go-live) date.
- » The training period extends for up to 30 days, allowing comprehensive testing of all JI Screening Portal transactions within the designated environment without affecting Medi-Cal member data.
- » CFs will receive training and portal assistance from the JI Portal Support Team. Access to EAS is available upon request and requires approval of a Medi-Cal enrollment application.
- » For more information, or to request participation, please contact the OSP team:
CalAIMJusticeAdvisoryGroup@dhcs.ca.gov

Hot Topics + Forthcoming Guidance



Unknown Release Dates

Managing unknown release dates continues to be a challenge for county jails and youth correctional facilities.

- » The short-term model gives best practice timelines and flexibility for adult jails and youth correctional facilities.
- » DHCS is evaluating other solutions, including retroactive reimbursement timelines.
 - Correctional facilities have 180 days from the date of service to submit a claim for 100% rate reimbursement.

JI Benefit Guide – Coming Soon

- » DHCS is drafting a Benefit Guide for correctional facilities to further clarify eligible Medi-Cal billing codes.
 - CAMMIS Fee-for-Service (Provider Manual)
 - Clinical consultation (evaluation and management codes)
 - Behavioral health consultation
 - Care management bundles
 - Laboratory and radiology
 - Durable medical equipment (as applicable)
 - Community health worker services
- » Short-Doyle
 - Behavioral health links
- » Medi-Cal Rx
 - Medications (Medi-Cal formulary)

Policy and Operations Guide Updates

- » Enrolling Eligible Individuals in Medi-Cal
- » Screening and Identification of Eligible Members
- » Short-Term Model
- » Reentry Planning and Care Management
- » Additional Requirements for Youth Correctional Facilities
- » Medi-Cal Billing and Claims Requirements
- » Pre-Release Services – Benefit Scope (Billing Codes, Eligible Providers)
 - Physical Health Clinical Consultation
 - Behavioral Health (BH) Services and BH Links
 - Laboratory and Radiology Services
 - Durable Medical Equipment
- » Pharmacy Requirements – Medication Administration and Medications In-Hand Upon Release
- » Data Sharing Requirements
- » Considerations for Small and Rural Counties

ECM Toolkit

- » Will share critical resources and guidance for ECM providers working with justice-involved populations
- » DHCS will work with County Probation Officers of California (CPOC) to include information about probation requirements to ensure successful collaboration between ECM providers and county Probation departments.
- » Topics may include:
 - What to know about court orders and risks of probation violations
 - Release of information to share information with Probation Officers
 - Accessing Community Supports

Small/Rural County Strategies for Implementation

- » Considerations for small/rural counties:
 - Small populations/average daily population (ADP)
 - Limited community resources, including limited numbers of providers and limited access to community pharmacies on nights/weekends
 - Not all counties have a correctional facility in the county – some contract with other counties to house and provide services to incarcerated individuals
 - 18 counties do not have a youth correctional facility
 - 2 counties do not have an adult jail
- » Readiness Assessment process modifications for counties without a CF

Managed Care Plan/Correctional Facility MOU



Correctional Facility/MCP MOU

The 2024 Medi-Cal managed care contract requires all MCPs to enter into MOUs with counties and third-party entities, including correctional facilities, to contractually ensure the provision of whole-system, person-centered care.

DHCS Goals for Requiring MOUs:

- » Incorporate existing service and program requirements into a single document.
- » Establish minimum requirements around key contract provisions for MOUs (e.g., training, data-sharing).
- » Clarify roles and responsibilities for the coordination of the delivery of care and services for all members, including across MCP carved out services.
- » Establish formal processes for how MCPs and correctional facilities will collaborate and coordinate on programs.
- » Establish data sharing pathways between MCPs and correctional facilities to support care coordination and enable robust monitoring.
- » Provide mechanisms to ensure overall oversight and accountability for MCPs to execute MOUs with correctional facilities.
- » Provide transparency into roles/responsibilities and relationships between MCPs and correctional facilities.

MOU Resources

- » **DHCS maintains resources to assist MCPs and correctional facilities with MOU implementation.**
- » **[DHCS MOU Webpage.](#)**
 - Houses the DHCS-issued APL 23-029, Base MOU Template and Bespoke MOU Templates.
 - Houses the MOU FAQs, which provide additional guidance on the APL, Base MOU, and Bespoke MOU Templates; clarifies aspects of MOUs in response to stakeholder feedback; addresses questions on optional provisions, data sharing, enforcement; and more.
 - DHCS MOU email address: MCPMOUS@dhcs.ca.gov.
- » **[DHCS JI Initiative Webpage.](#)**
 - The Policy and Operational Guide for Planning and Implementing the JI Reentry Initiative is available [here](#).
- » DHCS JI email address:
CalAIMJusticeAdvisoryGroup@dhcs.ca.gov.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the DHCS website with links for Home, About DHCS, and Translate. The DHCS logo is prominently displayed. The main heading reads "Memoranda of Understandings Between Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans and Third Party Entities". Below the heading is a link to "Return to the Managed Care All Plan Letters Homepage". The introductory text states: "Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) Contract with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide high quality, accessible, and cost-effective health care through managed care delivery systems. The MCP Contract requires MCPs to build partnerships with the following Third Party Entities to ensure Member care is coordinated and Members have access to community-based resources in order to support whole-person care:"

The Why – Successful Reentry



Strengthening Post-Release Linkages and Support Services



» *“Our JI ECM providers make sure doctor’s appointments are scheduled ahead of time. We also set up a visit to our office during the first week post-release so clients can connect with their case manager and discuss any immediate needs, such as court-ordered classes. We offer resources like anger management, substance abuse counseling, and access to a food pantry. We also check if they need documentation, such as an ID or Social Security Number, or housing assistance. Our goal is to link them to the right resources as quickly as possible after release.”*

- **Care Manager, Stay Focused Ministries**

From Release to Renewal: Building Stability Through Coordinated Care

Comprehensive support from Jim's JI ECM care manager enabled his smooth transition from incarceration to community life, fostering management of his chronic health*

Jim was recently released from incarceration and enrolls in ECM while residing in a sober living home.

Jim's care manager works with his MCP to arrange a ride to his doctor's appointment. His care manager also helps him **schedule other upcoming appointments.**

With the support of his care manager, Jim visits the Social Services office to **obtain CalFresh benefits** and **attends regular SUD treatment.**

DAY 1

DAY 3

DAY 17

DAY 18

DAY 30

ONGOING

Jim meets with his care manager, who helps him **schedule a doctor's appointment, apply for new IDs, and provides information on his MCP.**

Jim receives his buprenorphine-naloxone prescriptions and other mental health medications. He also receives his ID after successfully submitting the forms completed with his care manager.

Jim is in the process of **applying to jobs.** He provides daily updates to his care manager via phone.

Transforming Barriers into Opportunities: A Path to Community Connection

Targeted support from Maria's JI ECM care manager empowered her successful integration after a long-term incarceration, leading to sustainable employment, financial stability, and active contribution to her community.*

After spending 24 incarcerated, **Maria is released from prison and enrolls in ECM.**

DAY 1

DAY 4

Maria's care manager **helps her establish care with a physician and connects her to employment resources** to develop a resume and apply for jobs.

With the help of her care manager, **Maria secures a full-time job, enabling her to buy a new car and move into her own apartment.**

DAY 30

Maria graduates from ECM services but **still volunteers at the ECM provider's food pantry** to give back to the community and support others on their path to stability.

ONGOING

Reconnecting and Rebuilding: A Journey Towards Independence

Coordinated support helped Daniel overcome chronic challenges, graduate from parole, restore family ties, and achieve educational and professional milestones after a recent release from incarceration.*

Daniel experienced homelessness and repeated incarcerations over several years. Upon his most recent release from incarceration, **he enrolls in ECM.**

Note: Daniel's county is not yet live with pre-release services.

With the support of his LCM, Daniel **secures a full-time job and stable housing, completes his court-ordered classes, and successfully graduates from parole.** His LCM also helps him **enroll in GED classes** with the goal of applying to barber school.

DAY 1

DAY 2-90

DAY 91-180

ONGOING

Daniel's LCM helps him **obtain food and hygiene products and schedule doctor's appointments.** By attending the appointments, Daniel **successfully manages his diabetes.**

After more than a decade, **Daniel reconnects with his daughters,** reinforcing both his health and community. He continues to **build his confidence and has started independently scheduling his medical visits.**

Member stories – the why

» *“I felt cared about, like I mattered to someone, and it felt good. It felt like I was worth it. I remember being on drugs and homeless in the streets with no place to go. I knew I wanted a change, but I didn't know how. I'm grateful to my care manager for a lot. I'm able to have a certificate from parenting classes coordinated by my care manager and show the court that I'm bettering myself for my son, for myself, and for society.”*

- Individual Served by the Reentry Initiative

California's Justice Involved Re-Entry Initiative Resources



Where To Find JI Resources

- » JI Reentry Initiative Home Page [Justice-Involved Initiative Home](#)
- » JI Webinars and Meetings [Webinars & Meetings](#)
- » JI YouTube Playlist [Office of Strategic Partnerships – Justice-Involved Reentry Services – YouTube](#)
- » JI Resources Page [Resources](#)
- » *New* – Readiness Assessment [DHCS-Justice-Involved-Reentry-Initiative-Readiness-Assessment-Revised-January-2026.pdf](#)
- » *New* – Readiness Assessment Survey [Nintex Forms](#)
- » *Email:* CalAIMJusticeAdvisoryGroup@dhcs.ca.gov

Questions?



APPENDIX



Live Correctional Facilities

October 2024

- » Santa Clara County
- » Yuba County
- » Inyo County Sheriff

January 2025

- » San Joaquin County Probation

February 2025

- » Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation/
California Correctional Health Care Services (31 state prisons)

April 2025

- » San Francisco County Sheriff
- » Siskiyou County Sheriff
- » Sutter County Sheriff

Live Correctional Facilities

July 2025

- » Monterey County Sheriff
- » San Mateo County Sheriff

October/ November 2025

- » Kern County
- » Nevada County
- » San Diego County Probation

January 2026

- » San Luis Obispo County Sheriff
- » Mendocino County Sheriff
- » San Diego County Sheriff

Live Correctional Facilities

February 2026

- » Mendocino County Probation
- » San Luis Obispo County Probation

March 2026

- » San Mateo County Probation

April 2026

(Anticipated)

- » Orange County
- » Santa Barbara County Probation
- » Ventura County Probation