



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency Department of Health Care Services

PATH Justice-Involved Capacity Building Guidance Round 1: Pre-Release Eligibility and Enrollment Planning Support

Introduction

California statute (AB-133 Health; Chapter 143) mandates all counties implement pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment processes by January 1, 2023. Establishing pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment processes is part of the State’s vision to enhance the Medi-Cal healthcare delivery system for justice-involved populations. Implementation of pre-release enrollment and suspension processes will help ensure Medi-Cal coverage upon re-entry into the community in order to facilitate access to needed Medi-Cal covered services. These processes are also foundational to the provision of Medi-Cal services in the 90 days prior to release as requested by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) through its CalAIM 1115 Demonstration request.¹

California has received targeted expenditure authority through “Providing Access and Transforming Health” (PATH) as part of its CalAIM section 1115 demonstration. PATH is a \$1.44 billion initiative made up of two programs: one PATH program will support implementation of Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Support services,² while the other will support implementation of statewide justice-involved initiatives.³ California’s approved 1115 waiver [Special Terms and Conditions](#) provide additional details regarding both CalAIM as well as PATH initiatives.⁴

The DHCS CalAIM Section 1115 demonstration waiver initially requested a total of \$561 million in expenditure authority for PATH funding to support implementation of pre-release enrollment and suspension processes *as well as* pre-release and re-entry services. However, the final approved waiver only includes \$151 million in expenditure authority to support implementation of pre-release enrollment and suspension processes. DHCS is currently negotiating approval for \$410 million in additional expenditure authority that will support implementation of pre-release and re-entry planning services.

¹ On December 29, 2021, DHCS received approval from CMS for a portion of the 1115 demonstration request. Negotiations between the State and CMS on the request to provide targeted services in the 90 days prior to release are ongoing. Approved waiver is available at: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/CalAIM-1115-Waiver-Approval-Letter-STCs-12-29-21.pdf>

² <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/enhancedcaremanagementandinlieuofservices>

³ CalAIM 1115 Waiver Approved Special Terms and Conditions: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/CalAIM-1115-Approval-Letter-and-STCs.pdf>.

⁴ Ibid



The PATH Justice-Involved Capacity Building Program will provide funding to support implementation of pre-release Medi-Cal application and suspension processes. This program will provide funding to support collaborative planning as well as IT system modifications necessary to implement pre-release Medi-Cal application and suspension processes. This program will provide \$151 million in funding to correctional agencies, correctional institutions, and county social service departments that will be made available in two rounds:

1. Round 1 is a **planning grant** funding opportunity that will provide small planning grants to correctional agencies (or an entity applying on behalf of a correctional agency) to support collaborative planning with county departments of social services and other enrollment implementation partners to identify processes, protocols, and IT modifications that are necessary to support implementation of pre-release enrollment and suspension processes.
2. Round 2 is an **implementation grant** funding opportunity that will provide larger application-based grants to support entities as they implement the processes, protocols, and IT system modifications that were identified during the Round 1 planning phase. While entities do not need to participate in Round 1 in order to apply for funding in Round 2, the Round 1 planning grant funds provide an opportunity to support the development of a comprehensive application for Round 2 funding.

This document is solely focused on the Round 1 of the PATH Justice-Involved Capacity Building Program.

[PATH Justice-Involved Capacity Building Program Round 1: Pre-Release Eligibility and Enrollment Planning Support](#)

[Overview](#)

Round 1 of the PATH Justice-Involved capacity building program will provide planning grants to correctional agencies and correctional institutions to support them as they work to identify and scope out the processes, protocols, and IT system modifications that are necessary to implement or modify pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment and suspension processes. When correctional agencies successfully complete planning activities it is expected that they will have a detailed understanding of the specific steps that both their agency as well as local departments of social services will need to undertake to successfully implement pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment and suspension processes, or to modify processes to incorporate CalAIM best practices for Medi-Cal enrollment and suspension.

Round 1 is intended to support planning for pre-release enrollment and suspension processes. Round 1 is not intended to support implementation of pre-release enrollment and suspension processes. Round 1 funding must not be used for investments in infrastructure, capacity, or IT



systems that are needed to effectuate pre-release enrollment and suspension processes. Funding to support these types of investments in infrastructure and capacity will be provided in Round 2 and/or future rounds of the PATH Justice-Involved Capacity Building program.

Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply for funding through this initiative: County Sheriff's Offices to support county jails, County Probation Offices to support youth correctional facilities, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to support state prisons. The Sheriff's Office and Probation Office within a county may apply for funding jointly or independently.

In some counties, the Department of Public Health or another county agency actively manages correctional health services and is responsible for coordinating Medi-Cal screening, enrollment, and suspension for individuals in correctional institutions. In these cases, the county agency that is responsible for coordinating Medi-Cal screening, enrollment, and suspension for individuals in correctional institutions may apply for funding and manage awarded funds in lieu of the county Sheriff's Office or Probation Office if appropriate. For example, a County Department of Public Health that manages the Medi-Cal screening, enrollment and suspension processes for adult jails in the county may complete the application and receive awarded funds on behalf of the county Sheriff's Office. If an alternative county agency completes this application on a Sheriff's Office or Probation Office's behalf then that county agency will be required to include a letter of support from the local Sheriff's Office or Probation Office as part of their application. A single delegate may complete this application and receive awarded funds on behalf of both the local Sheriff's Office and the local Probation Office if appropriate.

Application Process

Correctional agencies will be eligible to apply for funding through this initiative on a rolling basis starting in Quarter 2 (Q2) 2022 until July 31st 2022. The ability of a correctional agency (or another county agency applying on behalf of a correctional agency) to receive Round 1 funding is not contingent on when they submit their application during this period. In order to receive this funding the correctional agency will be required to complete a standardized application form developed by DHCS. This application form will collect the following information:

- Funding request including a brief justification for requested funds;
- Summary of correctional institutions within jurisdiction, including number of facilities and average daily population by facility;
- Description of current pre-release Medi-Cal screening, enrollment and suspension processes;
- Summary of IT system capabilities including booking / management systems and Electronic Health Record (EHR) platforms;



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- Intended uses of planning funding;
- Description of how correctional agency will engage with local department of social services to identify funding needs;
- Description of how correctional agency will engage with local Managed Care Plans (MCPs) and County Behavioral Health Agencies to ensure alignment with new pre-release enrollment and suspension processes;
- Signed letter of support from local department of social services (CDCR will be expected to obtain a letter of support from the County Welfare Directors Association [CWDA]);
- Attestation that funding will not duplicate or supplant other federal, state, or local funding sources.

Completed applications may be submitted via email to CalAIMJusticePreReleaseApps@dhcs.ca.gov, with the subject 'PATH JI Round 1 Application'. Applications will be reviewed by DHCS for completeness and accuracy and to ensure that intended uses of funding are permissible. DHCS will review and approve applications within 30 days of receipt and will notify applicants of awards via email. If DHCS identifies issues or questions related to applications they may reach out to applicants via email to provide additional information. If applications are not approved or are pending additional information, then DHCS will respond in writing and will describe specific reasons for denial of the application or the specific information required to continue reviewing the application. In these cases, applicants will have 30 days to address issues flagged by DHCS and resubmit applications for approval.

Permissible Uses of Funding

This funding is intended to support planning between correctional agencies, correctional institutions, and county behavioral health, county health, and social service departments, or any other entities that the correctional agencies and social services departments deem critical to the process, to identify processes, protocols, and IT modifications necessary to support pre-release enrollment and suspension processes. Sheriff's Offices and Probation Offices will be expected to conduct collaborative planning with county behavioral health and social services departments to understand needs among both the correctional agency and their partners. Likewise, CDCR will be expected to conduct collaborative planning with CWDA to identify opportunities to improve or modify existing pre-release enrollment and suspension processes to align with best practices. This collaboration is intended to ensure that CWDA and the county social service offices it represents, are aligned with and afforded an opportunity to provide input on modifications to pre-release enrollment and suspension processes contemplated by CDCR. Correctional agencies, will also be expected to engage with local MCPs and County Behavioral Health Agencies to ensure that these stakeholders are aware of, aligned with, and afforded an opportunity to provide input on new Medi-Cal enrollment and suspension



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processes being planned by correctional agencies. Funding recipients may pass through funding to individual correctional institutions, county social service departments, vendors, and other entities as needed to support planning and engagement activities.

Specific permissible funding uses include but are not limited to the following:

- Facilitating meetings and collaborative planning sessions between correctional institutions and county social service departments;
- Hiring vendors or consultants to help identify operational gaps that need to be addressed in order to implement pre-release enrollment and suspension processes, including but not limited to IT system modifications;
- Support for initial costs related to recruiting, hiring, and onboarding staff who will have a direct role in planning for implementation of pre-release enrollment and suspension processes; and
- Support for staff time devoted to planning, meeting facilitation, and development of applications for Funding Round 2.

This funding is intended to support planning for and not direct implementation of, pre-release enrollment and suspension processes. Funds from this round must not be used for investments in infrastructure, capacity, or IT systems that are needed to effectuate pre-release enrollment and suspension processes. Funding to support these types of investments in infrastructure and capacity will be provided in Round 2 and/or future rounds of the PATH Justice-Involved Capacity Building program. If entities are unsure of whether their planned activities would qualify as permissible uses of funding under this initiative then they are encouraged to check with DHCS prior to submitting their application by emailing CalAIMJusticePreReleaseApps@dhcs.ca.gov, with the subject 'PATH JI Round 1'.

Funding Methodology

The maximum amount of funding that applicants are eligible to request will depend on the type of applicant and the number of correctional institutions within their jurisdiction. Sheriff's Offices and Probation Offices may request up to \$50,000 for the first correctional facility in their jurisdiction, and an additional \$25,000 for every additional correctional facility, up to a maximum of \$400,000. For example, a Sheriff's Office with one jail in its jurisdiction may request up to \$50,000; a Sheriff's Office with two jails may request up to \$75,000; a Sheriff's office with three jails may request up to \$100,000 and so on, up to a maximum of \$400,000. CDCR may request up to \$10,000 per correctional facility. Funding will be dispersed to awarded entities within 60 days of application approval.



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Questions

Thank you for your interest in the PATH Justice-Involved Capacity Building Program. If you have general questions about the PATH Justice-Involved Capacity Building Program or any of the information included in this document, then please email

CalAIMJusticePreReleaseApps@dhcs.ca.gov with the subject 'PATH JI Round 1'.