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Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

November 10, 2022

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 22-47

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS
ALL CONSORTIA/SAWS PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application Mandate Readiness Assessment Form for County Welfare Departments- Related to ACWDL 22-27 (Reference Assembly Bill 133 and California Penal Code Section 4011.11)

The purpose of this letter is for Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to introduce and disseminate the Pre-Release Application Mandate Readiness Assessment Form. This form is to be completed by County Welfare Departments (CWDs) to provide DHCS with information about their readiness to implement the mandatory Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application Process, as codified by [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 133](#) (Chapter 143, Statutes of 2021), entitled the “California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Initiative”. This process will help to ensure that, if determined eligible, all incarcerated adults and youths within County Correctional Facilities and County Youth Correctional Facilities have access to needed Medi-Cal covered services and care upon their re-entry into the community.

Commencing January 1, 2023, the mandatory Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application Process will go live. As part of the preparation, CWDs and County Correctional Facilities/County Youth Correctional Facilities are required to attest to their readiness for implementing a Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application process by completing and submitting the enclosed Pre-Release Application Mandate Readiness Assessment Form. DHCS will use the attestations to gauge overall readiness and identify counties that may require technical assistance to achieve readiness within the timeframe mandated by statute. (Refer to Penal Code § 4011.11)

BACKGROUND

Effective January 1, 2023, CalAIM requires all counties to implement a Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application Process to ensure all inmates and youth who are released from County Correctional Facilities and County Youth Correctional Facilities receive timely

access to Medi-Cal services, if otherwise eligible. DHCS issued All County Welfare Directors Letter 22-27 to establish a pre-release Medi-Cal application policy for both County Correctional Facilities and County Youth Correctional Facilities and/or their designees and updated existing policy for CWDs.

As outlined in Penal Code section 4011.11, the board of supervisors in each county, in consultation with the county sheriff and chief probation officer, respectively, shall designate an entity or entities to assist county jail inmates and youth with submitting an application for, or otherwise assisting their enrollment in, a health insurance affordability program consistent with federal requirements. The designated entity or entities (CWDs, County Correctional Facilities/County Youth Correctional Facilities, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), or other contracted entity) must work together to facilitate the enrollment of inmates and youth in health insurance affordability programs on or before their date of release by developing a process to inform CWDs of the incarceration status of their inmates and youth, in order for CWDs to appropriately suspend and activate (unsuspend) Medi-Cal coverage for beneficiaries.

If CWDs and County Correctional Facilities/County Youth Correctional Facilities have existing pre-release application processes that meet the requirements of the CalAIM Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application process, such processes can be leveraged and built upon, if necessary, to comply with this mandate.

READINESS SELF-ATTESTATION FORM- ACTION REQUIRED

CWDs must complete and submit the enclosed Pre-Release Application Mandate Readiness Assessment Form by December 1, 2022. Completed forms are to be submitted to DHCS at CalAIMJusticePreReleaseApps@dhcs.ca.gov.

The Pre-Release Application Mandate Readiness Assessment Form will be completed by the CWDs to self-attest to their organization currently having processes in place, or will have processes in place, by January 1, 2023, to support pre-release Medi-Cal applications. We encourage CWDs to consider and account for any future improvement in the design and modifications to application and enrollment processes. Additionally, the form will also ask the CWD to specify any aspects of the process for which technical assistance from DHCS is requested.

REMINDER: PATH JUSTICE-INVOLVED CAPACITY BUILDING APPLICATION

The Providing Access and Transforming Health” (PATH) Justice-Involved Capacity Building Program supports the implementation of processes, protocols, and IT

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system modifications required to implement their pre-release Medi-Cal application process. Please see [PATH Round 2 Funding Guidance](#) and the [CaAIM PATH Justice-Involved Webpage](#) for more information.

DHCS kindly reminds eligible entities to submit their PATH [Justice-Involved Capacity Building Round 2 application](#) **as soon as possible** to support the January 1, 2023, implementation of Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application processes. The deadline for submitting the PATH Round 2 applications is December 31, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or if we can provide further information please contact Angelo Vitale by email at CaAIMJusticePreReleaseApps@dhcs.ca.gov.

For CaAIM Justice Involved updates and additional information please visit: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/CaAIM/Pages/Justice.aspx>.

Original Signed By

Sandra Williams, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division
Department of Health Care Services

Enclosure

Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application Implementation
County Social Service Department Readiness Self-Attestation Form

As the January 1, 2023 implementation deadline approaches for the CalAIM Mandated County Inmate Pre-Release Application Process, DHCS is requiring County Social Service Departments and County Correctional Facilities to attest to their readiness to implement a process for pre-release Medi-Cal applications by completing and submitting the following form to DHCS by December 1, 2022. DHCS will use the attestations to gauge overall readiness and identify counties that may require technical assistance to achieve readiness within the timeframe mandated by statute.

Background: Per [California Penal Code § 4011.11](#), and further described in All County Welfare Director Letter #22-27, all counties are required to implement a CalAIM Mandatory Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application Process for inmates of county jails and youth correctional facilities by January 1, 2023. The goal of this mandate is to ensure that all Medi-Cal eligible individuals have timely access to Medi-Cal services upon release into the community. Furthermore, pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment will allow individuals to access a targeted set of pre-release Medi-Cal services that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has proposed to cover under an [1115 waiver amendment](#), which is currently under negotiation with the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS). To guide implementation of pre-release Medi-Cal applications, DHCS has convened working and office hour sessions with key stakeholders since November 2021 and released an issue brief, entitled [Strategies for Conducting Pre-Release Medi-Cal Enrollment in County Jails](#), which highlights best practices for implementing pre-release Medi-Cal application processes in jails and youth correctional facilities.

PATH Round 2 Funding: County Social Service Departments may apply for Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Round 2 Funding to support the implementation of processes, protocols, and IT system modifications required to implement their pre-release Medi-Cal application process. For more information on PATH Round 2, please see [PATH Round 2 Funding Guidance](#) and the [CalAIM PATH Justice-Involved Webpage](#). [Applications](#) for PATH Round 2 are due December 31, 2022.

Step 1: Provide County Contact Information

Please provide the contact information for the County Social Services Department representative who will complete the self-attestation form below and will serve as the lead contact for DHCS to follow-up with on any questions.

County: _____
County Agency: _____
Contact Name: _____
Contact Phone Number: _____
Contact Email Address: _____

Date Completed: _____

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County Social Service Department Readiness Self-Attestation Form

Step 2: Complete Self-Attestation Form

Please complete the form below to attest to the County's readiness for implementing pre-release Medi-Cal application processes by no later than January 1, 2023.

- 1) **Does the County Social Services Department currently have processes in place, or will it have processes in place, to support pre-release Medi-Cal applications received from County jails and youth correctional facilities starting no later than January 1, 2023?**

(Check one box and respond to the associated question describing the County's approach.)

- Yes, the County Social Services Department attests that it already has a process in place that meets the requirements described in All County Welfare Directors Letter #22-27** to support pre-release Medi-Cal applications received from County jails and youth correctional facilities.

Please describe the current processes that the County Social Services Department has in place to receive and process pre-release Medi-Cal applications from County jails and youth correctional facilities, including but not limited to: supported modalities to receive applications (e.g., paper, email, online); processes to send a Benefits Identification Card (BIC) to enrollees; and processes to communicate with the correctional facilities. Please describe if the County Social Service Department plans to apply for PATH funding to enhance its current pre-release Medi-Cal application process.

(Please limit response to 300 – 500 words)

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- Yes, the County Social Services Department attests that it plans to implement a process or update its current process to meet the requirements described in All County Welfare Directors Letter #22-27** to support pre-release Medi-Cal applications in the County's correctional facilities (jails or youth correctional facilities), starting no later than January 1, 2023.

Please describe the County's plans to meet the requirements described in the letter, including if the County Social Service Department plans to apply for PATH funding to support the cost of implementing a pre-release Medi-Cal application process.

(Please limit response to 300 – 500 words)

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- No, the County Social Service Department attests that it does not have, or likely will not have, a process in place to support pre-release Medi-Cal applications received from County jails and youth correctional facilities starting no later than January 1, 2023.**
Accordingly, the County is requesting technical assistance from DHCS to support compliance with the statutory mandate.

Please describe the next steps that will be taken to implement the pre-release Medi-Cal application processes, including anticipated timing and if , the County Social Service Department plans to apply for PATH funding to support the cost of implementing a pre-release Medi-Cal application process.

(Please limit response to 300 – 500 words)

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- 2) **Please describe any aspects of receiving and processing pre-release Medi-Cal applications on which you would like to receive technical assistance from DHCS. Please reference ACWDL 22-27 for County Social Service Department requirements for receiving and processing pre-release Medi-Cal applications, on which DHCS could provide technical assistance.**
(Please limit response to 250 words or less)

Step 3: Send Completed Form to DHCS

Please transmit this completed form to DHCS at CalAIMJusticePreReleaseApps@dhcs.ca.gov by no later than **December 1, 2022**. If you have any questions regarding the form or requirements regarding the CalAIM pre-release application mandate, please submit them to CalAIMJusticePreReleaseApps@dhcs.ca.gov.