

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Gabrielle Armenia, Director
Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration

SUBJECT: Medicaid Coverage for Eligible Juveniles in Carceral Settings

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Local District Support Unit
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The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to inform local departments of social services (LDSS) about changes required under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA 2023).

The CAA 2023 requires Medicaid coverage 30 days prior to release of eligible juveniles to provide a limited set of services. An eligible juvenile is an incarcerated individual who is under 21 years of age or an incarcerated individual eligible for the Former Foster Care (FFC) category up to age 26. Former Foster Care (FFC) refers specifically to youth who are discharged from foster care at 18 years or older and who were in receipt of Medicaid at time of final discharge (aged out). The Department of Health (DOH) is working with carceral facilities throughout the state to implement the delivery of services to the eligible population.

To provide the services mandated in CAA 2023, Medicaid programs are required to identify and enroll eligible juveniles, have a process for applicants who are eligible for Medicaid but not enrolled upon incarceration and have coverage in place the 30 days prior to release. Compliance with these expectations requires no change to the current suspension/reinstatement or enrollment process for incarcerated individuals.

Currently, DOH has a system in place for suspension and reinstatement of Medicaid coverage for incarcerated individuals as described in 08 ADM-3, "Maintaining Medicaid Eligibility for Incarcerated Individuals," GIS 22 MA-08, "Suspension of Medicaid for Justice Involved Youth," and GIS 23 MA-24, "Procedure Change for Rest of State in the Suspension of Medicaid for Justice Involved Juveniles." This process is automated with Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and Rikers Island Correctional Center (Rikers). DOH has a manual process with the Office of Children and Family Service (OCFS) for suspension/reinstatement for youth incarcerated in OCFS facilities. DOH local district support staff will continue to inform local districts when cases require manual suspension and reinstatement and will request corrections to be made in a timely manner.

Applications should continue to be processed according to GIS 12 MA-011, "Medicaid Coverage for Transitioning Juvenile Delinquent Youth." Any applications received and screened as Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) should follow current procedures for referrals to NY State of Health.

DOH is working to expand communication with other carceral settings. Including developing a manual process with New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) for suspension/reinstatement of youth incarcerated in ACS facilities. Additionally, a new file sharing

process is also being developed between DOH and the Division of Criminal Justice Service (DCJS) for reporting incarceration in local jails. For the new processes being developed, DOH has requested to get release information 30 days before release or the earliest the information is available for these individuals.

Please direct any questions to your local district support liaison.