

## Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2023

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### New federal law

The [Consolidated Appropriations Act \(CAA\) of 2023](#) introduced new Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) requirements intended to improve health care transitions and access to services for eligible juveniles.

- **Section 5121** requires states to provide a limited set of mandatory services for eligible juveniles, who are within 30 days of their scheduled date of release from a public institution following adjudication.
- **Section 5122** provides states the option to provide full Medicaid benefits for eligible juveniles who are pending disposition of charges (pre-adjudication).

The Health Care Authority (HCA) has chosen to implement full Apple Health (Medicaid) benefits in Section 5122 of the CAA supporting access to appropriate and medically necessary benefits from the client's Apple Health (Medicaid) benefit package for CAA-eligible juveniles in pre-adjudication status.

### Why does it matter?

Although many incarcerated young people may be eligible for Medicaid and CHIP, the Social Security Act of 1965, which established Medicaid, prohibits use of federal funds for services for any individual who is an inmate of a public institution as defined in [WAC 182-500-0050](#). This is commonly known as the "inmate exclusion" rule.

Currently, Washington state suspends Apple Health (Medicaid) benefits for individuals upon incarceration, limiting the covered services to an inpatient stay of 24 hours or more. However, the CAA, 2023, introduced a partial waiver to the inmate exclusion rule, allowing Medicaid to cover a limited set of services for incarcerated youth.

These federal changes are designed to address the negative impacts of the inmate exclusion policy by expanding Medicaid's role in supporting youth transitioning from carceral settings into the community.

### Who are eligible juveniles?

Eligible juveniles include clients who qualify for Apple Health (Medicaid) and are:

- Under 21 years of age, or
- Between the ages of 18 up to 26 who aged out of foster care on or after their 18th birthday.

### What is the timeline?

- Section 5121 of the CAA, 2023 took effect January 1, 2025.
- Washington state will implement sections 5121 and 5122 of the CAA, 2023 beginning July 2025.

### New requirements and carceral facilities impacted

#### Section 5121: Post-adjudication services for eligible juveniles

##### 1. Screening and diagnostic services

- **Population:** Eligible juveniles in the post-adjudication period.
- **Benefit:** Any screening or diagnostic services that meet reasonable standards or are deemed medically necessary, including behavioral health screenings or diagnostic services.
- **Provision timeline:** 30 days prior to scheduled release (or no later than one week or as soon as practical following release).
- **Impacted facilities:**
  - Juvenile detention facilities

- Department of Children, Youth and Families, Juvenile Rehabilitation facilities
- City, county, and tribal jails
- Department of Corrections facilities

## 2. Targeted case management

- **Population:** Eligible juveniles in the post-adjudication period.
- **Benefit:** Assessment, development of a care plan, referrals, monitoring, and follow-up to appropriate care and services in home and community.
- **Provision timeline:** 30 days prior to release and at least 30 days post-release.
- **Impacted facilities:**
  - Juvenile detention facilities
  - Department of Children, Youth and Families, Juvenile Rehabilitation facilities
  - City, county, and tribal jails
  - Department of Corrections facilities

## Section 5122: Pre-adjudication services for eligible juveniles

- **Population:** Eligible juveniles in the pre-adjudication period.
- **Benefit:** Access to appropriate and medically necessary Apple Health (Medicaid) benefits consistent with a client's benefit package while in pre-adjudication status.
  - Apple Health benefits are defined by a client's program benefit package according to the client's Apple Health eligibility (see [WAC 182-501-0060](#)).
- **Provision timeline:** During the pre-adjudication period while awaiting disposition of charges.
- **Impacted facilities:**
  - Juvenile detention facilities
  - City, county, and tribal jails

## What are the next steps for facilities?

To ensure eligible juveniles receive the necessary services, facilities must:

- **Verify Apple Health (Medicaid) eligibility and enrollment**
  - Confirm managed care enrollment (if applicable) or fee-for-service coverage.
  - Refer to the [ProviderOne Billing and Resource Guide](#) for more information on eligibility verification.
- **Support Apple Health applications**
  - Assist individuals applying for coverage.
  - For more information, visit the [Apply for Apple Health \(Medicaid\) coverage webpage](#).
- **Collaborate with HCA on manual suspension processes** for post-adjudicated (5121) eligible juveniles
  - Provide HCA an estimated release date (ERD) as soon as possible or least 30 days prior to release so pre-release services can begin.
  - Apple Health coverage is unsuspended once they are released from incarceration and are eligible for full coverage benefits.
  - Pre-adjudicated (5122) eligible juveniles are not suspended and are eligible for full Apple Health coverage.
- Facilities who participate in the [Reentry Initiative](#) will also need to collaborate with HCA to develop **Medicaid suspension process**.

## Where can I get more information?

For assistance on your specific eligibility or enrollment questions, email HCA's Apple Health eligibility and policy team at [HCAeligpolicy@hca.wa.gov](mailto:HCAeligpolicy@hca.wa.gov).