

Can You Get Medicaid After You Get Released from Prison?

Medicaid is a public health insurance program in the United States. You may be able to get Medicaid after leaving prison. But you can also apply before leaving. Medicaid will cover you for an entire year after discharge/release. You would need to refile after the 365 days to continue to qualify but this gives you a year to find a provider, get a physical and get a year's worth of medications once you are discharged.

How do you apply for Medicaid after you get released from prison?

Check with your counselor prior to discharge date, they can help you set this up, if not, there are a few different ways you can apply for Medicaid after leaving prison. The first option is to apply online. When you apply online, you can apply to either Healthcare.gov or your state's Marketplace website. You can also fill out a paper application and mail it in. Or, you can go to your local Medicaid office.

Can you apply for Medicaid while you are in prison?

You can apply to either Medicaid or Medicare while in prison. This is different from private insurance. You usually cannot apply for private insurance while you're in prison. Applying for Medicaid in prison can ensure that you are covered when you leave prison. But not all states allow you to do this. You might not be able to access Healthcare.gov from prison. So, you may need to mail your application. You should know that your coverage won't begin until you leave prison. Medicaid won't cover you while you're incarcerated.

Contact your local DHS office or the Des Moines state office (below) for an application:

Iowa Department of Human Services (Medicaid)
1305 E Walnut St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

What do you need to provide when applying for Medicaid?

You will need to provide some information when you apply for Medicaid. Get this information ready before you apply. This can make the process easier and faster.

- Personal information. This includes items like your full name, date of birth and social security number.
- Household information. You will need to provide information about the people in your home. This includes your address and how many people live there.
- Other applicants. If someone else in your household is applying, you need to provide this information.
- Employer and income. The application will ask you how much money you earn. It will also ask about your household's income. You may need to also provide proof of income.