

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Stacie Weeks, JD
MPH
Administrator

September 30, 2024

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Serrell Smokey, ITCN President
Tribal Chairman of Washoe Tribe
919 Highway 395 South
Gardnerville, Nevada 89410

Dear Tribal Members:

In accordance with established consultation guidelines, the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) is notifying Nevada tribes of the following proposed waiver application:

During the 82nd (2023) Session of the Nevada Legislature, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 389 which requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to apply for a Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a five-year Medicaid demonstration program to improve care for adults and youth transitioning from correctional facilities into the community. Specifically, Nevada is seeking authority to provide a set of targeted Medicaid services to eligible justice-involved populations within the 90-day period prior to their expected release. If approved, the State intends to implement the Demonstration statewide with a phased approach beginning in October 2025.

DHCFP seeks to support successful reentry of, and improve care transitions for, adults and youth transitioning from incarceration to their community by providing a targeted set of Medicaid services to eligible individuals during the period prior to their release. By bridging relationships between community-based Medicaid providers and justice-involved populations prior to release, Nevada intends to improve health outcomes for individuals with a history of substance use, mental illness, and/or chronic disease by increasing access to stable and continuous care. Consistent with the CMS goals as outlined in the CMS State Medicaid Director Letter, Nevada's specific goals for the Reentry Demonstration are to:

1. **Increase coverage, continuity of coverage, and appropriate service uptake** through assessment of eligibility and availability of coverage for a targeted suite of benefits in carceral settings prior to release;
2. **Improve access to services** prior to release and improve transitions and continuity of care into the community upon release and during reentry;
3. **Improve coordination and communication** between correctional systems, Medicaid systems, managed care plans, and community-based providers;
4. **Increase investments in health care and related services**, aimed at improving the quality of care for beneficiaries in carceral settings and in the community to maximize successful reentry post-release;

5. **Improve connections between carceral settings and community services** upon release to address physical health, behavioral health, and health-related social needs; and,
6. **Reduce number of Emergency Department visits and inpatient hospitalizations** among recently incarcerated Medicaid beneficiaries through increased receipt of preventive and routine physical and behavioral health care.

DHCFP anticipates that the Demonstration will have a positive impact on Native American Medicaid beneficiaries who are transitioning from incarceration by increasing their access to services, improving the continuity of care in the pre- and post-release periods, and supporting their reentry to the community upon release.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to Tribal Governments.

If you would like a consultation regarding this proposed change in policy, please contact Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles at nflores-rosiles@dhcfp.nv.gov or (775) 350-0786 who will schedule a meeting. We would appreciate a reply within 30 days from the date of this letter. If we do not hear from you within this time, we will consider this an indication that no consultation is requested.

Sincerely,

Casey Angres

Casey Angres (Sep 27, 2024 13:55 PDT)

Casey Angres

Division Compliance Chief, DHCFP

cc: Cynthia Leech, Compliance Agency Manager, DHCFP
Malinda Southard D.C., CPM, Deputy Administrator, DHCFP
Michael Gorden, LSW, Social Services Chief III, DHCFP
Deidre Manley, Social Services Chief I, DHCFP
Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles, Tribal & Community Liaison, DHCFP