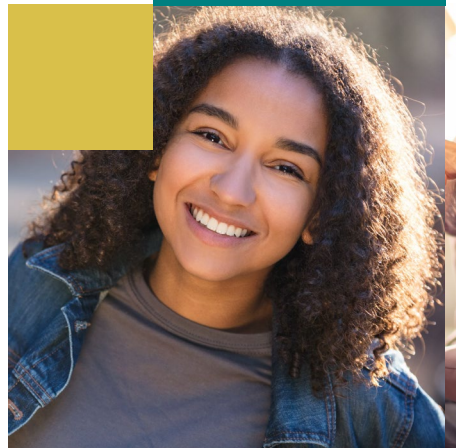


DHHS Commissioner Update
New Hampshire's Community Reentry Program

March 27, 2026

Ann Landry, MBA, Associate Commissioner
Olivia May, MPH, Deputy Director, Medicaid Services

Department of HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

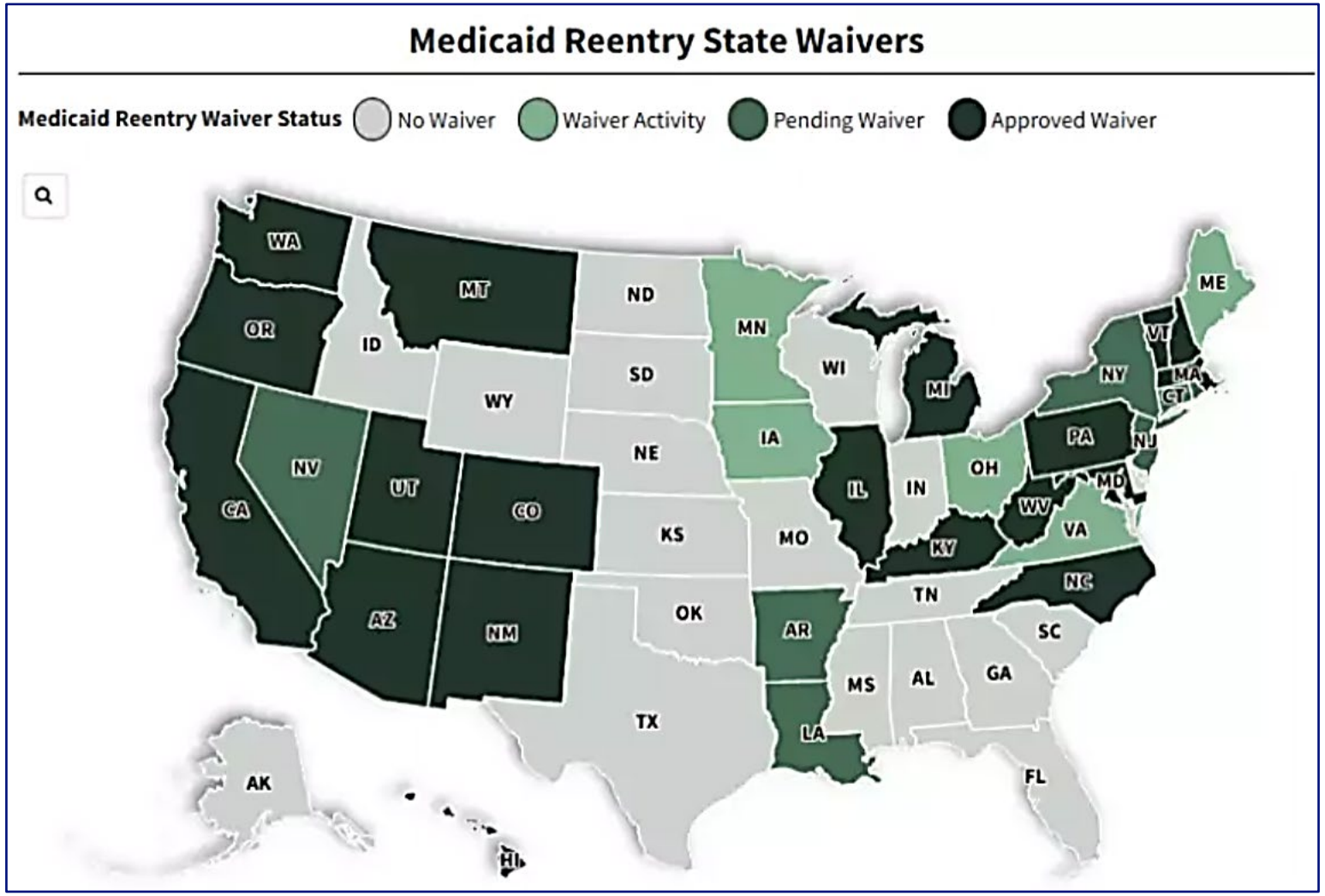




Background

- When authorized in 1965, Medicaid was prohibited by Congress from allowing payments for services provided to “inmates of a public institution.” As a result, corrections leaders have utilized other funds for health care services for people who are incarcerated and upon their release back into communities.

- In 2023, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed new guidance based on a statutory requirement to allow for a new opportunity for states to **provide reimbursement for certain Medicaid services for up to 90 days before release for people who are incarcerated.**



**Note: Montana and Oregon withdrew applications*

Source: Legal Action Center | Mapping Medicaid Reentry and What Correctional Agencies Need to Know about the Medicaid Section 1115 Reentry Demonstration Opportunity - CSG Justice Center

New Hampshire's Implementation: A Partnership between DHHS & DOC

January 2025

NH was one of the first states to implement **Adult Community Reentry,** allowing Medicaid to pay for limited pre-release services 45 days prior to release from incarceration.

- Covered Services: MCO enrollment, enhanced care coordination, initial pre-release visits with community-based providers, Medication-Assisted Treatment, peer support, and a 30-day prescription drug supply provided upon release

NH also implemented **Youth Reentry**, required under the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

- Covered services: MCO nurse case management delivered as TCM, Screening and Diagnostic services under EPSDT

Adult Reentry covered population: Incarcerated, age 18+ with substance use disorder or serious mental illness

Individuals in both categories are eligible for all services

Youth Reentry covered population: Ages up to 21 or former foster care ages 21-26 at SYSC/DOC

Emerging Successes and Next Steps

The community reentry benefit was implemented in DOC State Prisons starting January 2025.

- 78% of Individuals with Known Post-Release Outcomes are still in the Community (based on an analysis of 267 individuals)
- Of the 154 individuals in the community with known employment outcomes, 51% are employed

The program teams collect narratives and case notes on participants. Common themes include:

- Valuing ongoing outreach; reassurance in having ongoing support and resources for transition into community
- Increased engagement and confidence in accessing medical appointments

This month, the DHHS Lead of this initiative presented at the CMS Quality Conference on a national panel. Attendees and CMS staff noted positively New Hampshire's action-oriented approach to implementing these programs as well as the promising emerging data.

- CMS staff highlighted their excitement with both NH's implementation and early data-driven results

What's Next

- Building on the community reentry implementation in state prisons to expand the program to county jails by CMS-mandated timeline of December 2026.
- Utilizing early learnings from reentry implementation to identify and act upon opportunities for program improvement.