

# Getting Health Care After Leaving Corrections



*Medicaid Eligibility Has Expanded and MANY Leaving Corrections Are Eligible!*

## What is Medicaid?

Medicaid provides important health care insurance coverage to hundreds of thousands of Nebraskans outside of correctional facilities. In Nebraska, Medicaid generally does not require people to pay premiums. Medicaid generally covers many healthcare expenses at no cost to patients or with very low copays in certain instances. Medicaid provides health coverage to see providers like doctors, therapists, and nurses. Medicaid was recently expanded in October 2020 to cover people who would not have been previously eligible for Medicaid.

## What health benefits does Medicaid provide?

Medicaid coverage helps people get the health care they need. Medicaid can help people get:

- Medications;
- Preventative care like tests, physicals, and vaccinations;
- Important behavioral health services like therapy and substance use disorder treatment;
- Treatment for health conditions like diabetes, infections, and heart disease;
- Care and tests when you're sick; and
- Much more!

## Does Medicaid provide any other benefits?

Yes! Each Medicaid health plan offers additional benefits to help support wellness. Depending on the Medicaid health plan you have, you may be able to access additional benefits like non-medical transportation, YMCA memberships, community baby showers, fresh fruits and vegetables, and reward programs.

## Who is eligible for Medicaid?

Many people leaving correctional facilities are eligible for Medicaid health care coverage, but you have to submit an application and be approved to know for sure. To be eligible for Medicaid, people usually have to fit into an eligibility category based on their personal characteristics and income level. People can be eligible for Medicaid coverage for many different reasons, including but not limited to being a parent/caretaker, having a disability, or being over 65 years of age. Income levels and other eligibility requirements for each eligibility group vary. And starting in October 2020, more adults aged 19-64 (often referred to as the Medicaid Expansion group) became newly eligible! More information about the Medicaid Expansion group is below.

## What are the age and income requirements for Medicaid expansion?

A person must be between the ages of 19-64 with income of 138% or less of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to be eligible for Medicaid expansion. The amount of income a person can have and be eligible depends on the size of the household. For a household of 1, in 2022, it is about \$1562.85 or less per month.

## Will my criminal history prevent me from receiving Medicaid?

People sometimes worry that their criminal convictions will disqualify them from assistance. Thankfully, this is generally not the case for Medicaid.

## When can I get Medicaid coverage?

People in correctional facilities generally cannot receive Medicaid while in those facilities. However, once people leave correctional facilities, they are able to use Medicaid to get health care if they are eligible. For example, people in the community on parole or probation may be eligible to receive Medicaid coverage.

## How do I learn more about Medicaid when preparing to be released?

If you are approximately 120 days from your parole eligibility date, you can ask your assigned reentry specialist about Medicaid.

## Where can I go to find affordable health care after I leave a correctional facility?

Whether you are looking to apply for health care coverage (like Medicaid or Marketplace health insurance) or are trying to find low or no cost clinics, you can:

- Call Nebraska's 211 Helpline by dialing 2-1-1 or
- Reach out to Nebraska Appleseed's Community Assistance Line at [neappleseed.org/gethelp](https://neappleseed.org/gethelp)

You can apply for Medicaid by:

- Filling out an application online at <https://iserve.nebraska.gov>;
- Calling (855) 632-7633 to apply over the phone or to request a paper application from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; or
- Visiting a local DHHS office.

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