



Message from the Director

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Studies show that persons with mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders are over-represented in jails and prisons around the country. Additionally, research reveals that there are hundreds of thousands of justice -involved individuals who have a drug, mental health, or associated treatment need that went unmet. The Affordable Care Act is a potential game-changer for the criminal justice populations as it provides opportunities for many justice-involved individuals to gain access to healthcare and address their medical and psychological needs.

November 1, 2015: First day of Open Enrollment for 2016 Marketplace coverage.

Open Enrollment only happens once each year and this year's Open Enrollment period runs from November 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016. We are learning through our technical assistance activities that successful integration of ACA related opportunities into local, state, and federal criminal justice systems (enrollment in coverage, provision of health literacy and health insurance literacy, and access to care) creates an unprecedented possibility for improved health, decreased recidivism, and cost savings for criminal justice systems and communities. The upcoming Open Enrollment period is an excellent opportunity to assist our justice-involved population with signing up for healthcare.

The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) developed the following technical assistance strategies to support the reviewing, implementing, and/or refining ACA- related work to increase healthcare enrollment and coverage activities:

- (1) Facilitating strategic planning sessions for criminal justice and healthcare professionals to develop the collaborations and framework necessary to examine opportunities and challenges related to the ACA and Medicaid eligibility determination and enrollment;
- (2) Facilitating systems mapping processes designed to aid jurisdictions with identifying existing strengths and opportunities for ACA and Medicaid enrollment at each criminal justice decision point;
- (3) Prioritizing healthcare enrollment strategies and healthcare connection opportunities for action planning purposes; and
- (4) Developing implementation planning for ACA related policy.

NIC Healthcare [Enrollment Map](http://static.nicic.gov/UserShared/2014-06-19_nic_decisionmap.pdf) (http://static.nicic.gov/UserShared/2014-06-19_nic_decisionmap.pdf)



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Below are a few fast facts from HealthCare.gov that you can share with justice –involved individuals about getting healthcare coverage:

What is HealthCare.gov?

- HealthCare.gov provides a place for those who need health insurance to find affordable healthcare coverage that fits their budgets and needs.
- Spanish speaking consumers should visit CuidadoDeSalud.gov.
- Healthcare.gov makes it easy to learn about the plans available in your area. You can compare plan benefits and coverage prices and find out if you qualify for financial assistance.

Why is it important to get covered?

- All plans at HealthCare.gov cover free preventive care with no co-pay. This means free check-ups, and more. All plans at HealthCare.gov also offer guaranteed essential benefits including low-or no cost vaccines, screening tests, check-ups and more.
- No one can be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition like high blood pressure or asthma. No American has to worry that losing a job will mean that he or she won't qualify for health coverage.

Who can enroll in a health insurance plan through HealthCare.gov?

If you don't have health insurance through your job, Medicare, Medicaid or another source, HealthCare.gov helps you find and enroll in a plan that fits your budget and meets your needs.

How can people enroll in coverage?

- Getting covered is easier than ever. Every year, the process of signing up for coverage gets simpler. You can even apply on your cell phone. During the last open enrollment period, it took most people about 10 minutes to submit an application.
- There are many ways to select a health plan and enroll.
 - You can visit HealthCare.gov and sign up for coverage online.
 - If you have questions about signing up or want to talk through your options with a trained professional, free and confidential assistance is just a call or click away. You can call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596 or find local, in-person help by visiting LocalHelp.HealthCare.gov.