



CalFresh & Medi-Cal: Inmates, Probation, Parole and Wellness & Recovery

General Eligibility*

Status	CalFresh	Medi-Cal
Inmate: in Jail or Prison	Not eligible	Not eligible/suspended while incarcerated. Can apply pre-release.
Home Detention/House Arrest (includes ankle monitoring)	Eligible	Eligible
Probation (meeting conditions)	Eligible	Eligible
Parole (meeting conditions)	Eligible	Eligible
Work Furlough (resides in jail/prison)	See Inmate	See Inmate
Fleeing Felon	Potentially not eligible: certain warrant codes cause ineligibility	Eligible (ineligible for CMSP)
Convicted Felons (any crime)	Eligible	Eligible

*Must meet other eligibility conditions.

Medi-Cal Eligibility: Suspension

Once a county is notified that a recipient has become an inmate in jail or prison, Medi-Cal is suspended, not discontinued, for up to a year. The inmate, jail, or prison notifies the county upon release so the Medi-Cal can be turned back on (suspension lifted). The suspension cannot be lifted prior to the release date.

Medi-Cal: Pre-release Applications

An inmate may apply pre-release in order to have coverage upon release. No application needs to be made if the inmate has suspended Medi-Cal (see above). Applying for Medi-Cal prior to release should be completed using the regular application process, not a special program. The inmate will be on suspended Medi-Cal while still an inmate; when the county is notified of release Medi-Cal will be “turned on.”

Wellness & Recovery Programs: Releasing Inmates into Treatment

Medi-Cal recipients who are or will be enrolled in Partnership HealthPlan of California managed Medi-Cal can receive substance use disorder (SUD) services through Medi-Cal in Humboldt County. Partnership contracts with Carelon Behavioral Health Options (Carelon) to administer the Medi-Cal paid treatment services including residential treatment. These services provided through Partnership and Carelon are called Wellness & Recovery.

These expanded services can be accessed by walking in to a network provider, or by calling the Carelon Access line 1-855-765-9703. Applications for Medi-Cal received from the Humboldt County Jail are given high priority to ensure access to Wellness & Recovery Medi-Cal services upon release.

Active Medi-Cal is suspended for the time that a recipient is incarcerated. On the date of release, Humboldt County jail or probation/parole contacts Social Services to have the suspense lifted so that the active Medi-Cal shows for providers. This allows the inmate to be released into treatment and have Wellness & Recovery pay for the services. If a person has Medi-Cal with no share of cost, then treatment will have no cost. If there is a share of cost, then the customer must pay up to the monthly share of cost amount before Medi-Cal will start paying.

Wellness & Recovery Programs: A Note on CalFresh

Residents of a drug or alcohol treatment rehabilitation program have special rules for CalFresh. These treatment programs must be authorized by USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) in order for their participants to receive CalFresh benefits.

Wellness & Recovery funding will pay for all the costs associated with qualifying residential treatment facilities, including the costs of a participants meals. This means that customers residing at these institutions through Wellness & Recovery are in an institution where meals and residence are completely paid for. Due to this, customers who are at a residential treatment program for drug or alcohol addiction are not eligible to CalFresh if their stay is paid for by Wellness & Recovery because all their food needs are met.

Participants in out-treatment Wellness & Recovery paid programs are still eligible to CalFresh. This could be someone living in group sober housing who is attending other SUD services such as counseling. We want everyone to apply who may be eligible.