

Free Health Insurance: Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) for People Released from Prison

Why do I need health insurance?

Having health insurance means you can get the care you need to stay healthy, including mental health care and chemical dependency treatment. You can see a doctor instead of going to the emergency room for medical care. Health insurance can protect you from high medical bills if you have a serious accident or illness. Medicaid (Apple Health) pays for medically necessary care without cost to you.

Washington Apple Health is Medicaid

Washington Apple Health (Apple Health) provides free health insurance to low-income people, including people released from prison, who meet certain requirements. If your current or average monthly income is less than the examples listed below, you probably qualify for Apple Health.

1-person monthly income*	2-person family monthly income*	3-person family monthly income*	4-person family monthly income*
\$1,387	\$1,868	\$2,348	\$2,829

*These amounts are for April 2017 through March 2018. The numbers represent 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

- If your income is too high for Washington Apple Health, you may be able to buy low-cost health insurance, called a Qualified Health Plan (QHP), after you release.
- If you are legally present in the United States, but have not lived here for 5 years, you may not be eligible for Apple Health. You may be able to buy low-cost health insurance (QHP) after you release.
- If you're an immigrant, but are not here legally, you may still qualify for Apple Health for limited services such as hospital emergency care, cancer treatment, and kidney dialysis.

Benefits Included in Washington Apple Health

All the important benefits are covered, including: doctor visits, hospital stays, emergency room visits, prescriptions, dental, vision, maternity care, and mental and chemical dependency health services.

- **Mental Health:** doctor visits, counseling, education, inpatient treatment, and emergencies
- **Substance Abuse:** screenings, interventions, and alcohol, drugs, and tobacco treatment
- **Preventive Care:** free check-ups and services to support healthy living like cancer screenings and shots
- **Women's Health:** preventive services for women, like breast cancer screenings, birth control, and pregnancy termination

New: Washington Apple Health Benefits Change during Incarceration, and Full Benefits Restore on Release

Starting July 2017, because of a new law (SSB 6433), you keep your Washington Apple Health eligibility if you had it before incarceration. While incarcerated, your coverage is limited to inpatient hospitalizations. DOC or your jail facility covers your other health care. After release, you should automatically get full Apple Health coverage again.

If you do not have Washington Apple Health coverage when you become incarcerated, all Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities and some jail facilities can help you apply, or a representative can apply for you. If you apply in prison or jail, you can start seeing doctors right away after you release. You can also apply after release.

You may have to wait until release to apply:

- If you plan to live with your spouse or children, or
- If you are not a U.S. citizen
- *Applying for Apple Health while in prison:*
 - About 90 days before your ERD, you will get a letter from DOC telling you about Apple Health and that you will have a 60-day callout meeting called "Reentry Assistance."
 - At your 60-day callout meeting, DOC Health Services staff will talk to you about Apple Health and

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help you fill out an Apple Health application worksheet.

- You will need to provide your name, DOC number, income if in work release, tribal affiliation if any, and the address where you will live after you are released (if you know it).
- 10-20 days before your ERD, DOC headquarters staff will enter your information into the Healthplanfinder (www.wahealthplanfinder.org), the new website for health insurance.
- ***If You enroll in Apple Health while in prison:***
 - The Health Care Authority sends your approval letter to the address you list on your application.
 - Your “ProviderOne Card” number will be in your release packet. You can get care with this plus ID.
 - ProviderOne Card: If you are getting Apple Health for the first time, HCA sends your card to the mailing address you list on your application. If you had one but lost it, contact HCA to replace it.
 - Health Insurance ID Card: The health plan you chose or were assigned will mail you their plan card. If you want to choose a different plan, contact HCA to change plans, effective the following month.
 - Your Medical Benefits Book: HCA mails a booklet explaining benefits to the address you put on your application. Your plan also will send you information.
- ***If You cannot enroll in Apple Health while in prison:***
 - You will get a letter from DOC explaining why you were not approved and a list of navigators who can help you apply once you are released.
 - Remember: even if you could not use the DOC process, you may still be eligible for Apple Health. You should apply for Apple Health after you release.
- ***Applying for health coverage after you release:***
 - You can apply for Apple Health any time, but you should apply within 60 days of release. If your income is too high, you may qualify to buy low-cost health insurance (QHP) through a “special enrollment period” because of your recent release from prison.
 - Ways to apply for Apple Health or to buy a QHP (if you are not eligible for Apple Health):
 - Online: submit an online application at: (www.wahealthplanfinder.org);
 - Call: the Healthplanfinder call center (1-855-923-4633) (interpreters are available);
 - In-person: visit navigators in your area to help you apply (DOC will give you a list, or check https://www.wahealthplanfinder.org/HBEWeb/Annon_DisplayBrokerNavigatorSearch.action?brokerNavigator=NAV); or
 - Mail: send in a paper application (available at any DSHS office or download from the Health Care Authority website: form # [HCA 18-005](#)). This will take longer.
 - You will need to provide:
 - Your monthly household income; your Social Security number, and your birth date;
 - The names, Social Security numbers, and birth dates for each member of your household applying for health coverage; and
 - Your immigration information if you are not a citizen.
 - If you apply online, you can create an electronic account. That will allow you to receive internet notices; choose another language if English is not your preferred language; and update information online, such as a new address or different income.

For questions about **Apple Health**, call the Health Care Authority: 1-800-562-3022

For questions about **low-cost health insurance (QHPs)**, call Washington Healthplanfinder: 1-855-923-4633



This information is current as of the date of printing: July 2017