

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Jessica Brady Reader, media@healthandreentryproject.org

Health and Reentry Project (HARP) Announces New State Technical Assistance Center

HARP's State Technical Assistance Center (STAC) Aims to Support State Health and Safety Leaders in Improving Access to Health Care at Reentry through Medicaid 1115 Waivers

Washington, D.C., October 1, 2026 — The Health and Reentry Project (HARP) announced today the launch of a first-of-its-kind [State Technical Assistance Center](#) dedicated to supporting state leaders to implement policies that connect people who are transitioning from prison and jail to health care at reentry.

STAC's launch comes amid growing bipartisan commitment to building continuity of care at reentry. Just last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [approved four states' and the District of Columbia's proposals](#) to strengthen access to services and continuity of care for people leaving prison and jail. There are now 22 states, plus Washington, D.C., with approved [1115 Medicaid reentry waivers](#). Another four states have pending waivers.

"Communities are safer when people leaving incarceration are healthier and better equipped to return to their families and communities successfully. HARP's STAC is designed to help states achieve this reality by translating groundbreaking policies into improved access to health care for the millions of people who return to communities from incarceration each year," said **Vikki Wachino, Founder and Executive Director of HARP**. "STAC expands our technical assistance and will support state leaders to strengthen access to health care at release. Together, these efforts support rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and address opioid overdoses, which are all too common following release. Connecting people to services in the community - rather than in jails and emergency departments - also addresses inefficiency and fragmentation in the health and criminal justice systems."

Medicaid reentry waivers allow states to cover a targeted set of services, including case management and medication-assisted treatment, in the period before a person's release from incarceration. Treatment of conditions like mental illness and substance use disorder are pressing needs at reentry. Providing access to effective and preventive treatment can prevent those illnesses from worsening as people return to communities. It also strengthens public safety by addressing risk factors and root causes of crime.

Established in 2022, HARP has worked to build safer, healthier communities by improving access to health care for people leaving incarceration. Now, with today's launch of STAC, HARP and its team of experts is offering the only national center dedicated solely to providing technical assistance to support states implementing [1115 Medicaid reentry waivers](#).

STAC works with state Medicaid agencies, corrections departments, juvenile justice agencies, and their implementation partners. Open to all states with pending or approved reentry waivers, STAC is staffed

by leaders with Medicaid and corrections expertise. STAC will offer states a range of technical assistance modalities and will deepen and broaden its offerings over time in response to state needs.

Learn more about HARP's technical assistance center [online](#).

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About HARP

The Health and Reentry Project (HARP) is dedicated to building healthier, safer communities by improving access to health care as people return to community from incarceration. HARP provides expert policy analysis and education, supports state and local implementation of new policies, and convenes cross-sector stakeholders from health care and criminal justice, people who are directly impacted, and community-based organizations. For more information, contact media@healthandreentryproject.org or visit our website, www.healthandreentryproject.org.