

Legal Action Center

NYS Medicaid Enrollment/Linkages to Health Care of People in the Criminal Justice System

The Legal Action Center is the only non-profit law and policy organization in the U.S whose sole mission is to fight discrimination against people with criminal records, histories of addiction or HIV/AIDS and to advocate for sound public policies in these areas. LAC has been deeply involved in health care reform policy analysis and advocacy for three decades in New York and nationally, conducting studies, policy analyses and educational campaigns.

The Center has a three-year project supported by the Langeloth Foundation to improve health care access and health outcomes for individuals at all stages of involvement in New York State's criminal justice system. We seek to implement change in the State's criminal justice system that takes advantage of recent and ongoing federal and state health care reform efforts. The overarching goal of this project is to improve the health of persons involved in New York's criminal justice system by increasing this population's Medicaid enrollment and engagement in health care. We believe that improving health outcomes for those in the criminal justice system will also reduce recidivism rates and improve the overall health and safety of the communities in which these individuals live, particularly underserved communities in New York City with disproportionately high rates of criminal justice involvement. The project proposed here has two specific objectives: (1) to maximize Medicaid enrollment for individuals at all stages of involvement in the criminal justice system; and (2) to ensure that those involved in the criminal justice system obtain the care that they need, especially services for addiction, mental health, HIV and other chronic conditions, through health homes and other care systems.