# TALKING POINTS

April 2024

## Health Center Program Policy Guidance Regarding Services to Support Transitions in Care for Justice-Involved Individuals Reentering the Community

*Please consider the following when responding to HRSA's PIN2024-05(Section II exclusion of pre-trial detainees)*

### *Inclusivity Concerns*

The new HRSA policy allows FQHCs to serve incarcerated individuals 90 days before release but excludes pretrial detainees. This group often makes up the majority of jail populations and is disproportionately affected by disruptions in healthcare continuity.

### *Health Risks for Pretrial Detainees*

Pretrial detainees face significant health risks due to abrupt discontinuation of treatment for chronic conditions and substance use disorders. By excluding them, the policy fails to prevent potential severe health deterioration during a critical period.

### *Benefits of Early Intervention*

Including pretrial detainees in the policy would allow FQHCs to screen and continue community-based healthcare immediately upon incarceration. This early intervention could maintain treatment continuity, preventing health setbacks and facilitating smoother reentry upon release.

### *Equity and Justice*

Extending FQHC services to pretrial detainees aligns with principles of justice and equity, ensuring all incarcerated individuals have access to necessary healthcare regardless of their legal status.

### *Policy Effectiveness*

Amending the policy to include pretrial detainees would not only improve health outcomes but also enhance the overall effectiveness of healthcare delivery within the correctional system, reducing potential recidivism linked to health issues.

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