

## **Help spread the word with law enforcement**

If you are a NAMI State Organization leader, help your partners in law enforcement understand the threats to Medicaid and people with mental health and substance use conditions by sharing our Medicaid and Mental Illness: What's at Stake for Law Enforcement fact sheet.

**(Not a NAMI State Organization leader, but want to help spread the word? Please contact your NAMI State Organization to coordinate efforts.)**

Here's a sample email:

(Sample email subject line)

Medicaid & Mental Illness: What's at Stake for Law Enforcement

(Sample email text)

As Congress proposes changes to our nation's health care system, it's important for law enforcement to know about changes that may affect your day-to-day work. The American Health Care Act, Congress' bill to reform health care, would impact Medicaid, the health coverage program for low-income and disabled Americans, including many people who have mental illness and substance use conditions.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, Medicaid will cover 14 million fewer people and Medicaid spending would be reduced by 25 percent by 2026. Many more people with mental illness will be uninsured and cuts to Medicaid will limit states' ability to provide crisis beds and mental health services to people with the most serious conditions, increasing the chances that they wind up on the streets and in our jails. The mental health crisis, which is already a challenge for many law enforcement agencies, could get much worse.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), a national nonpartisan organization of people affected by mental illness, developed a fact sheet to explain how Medicaid provides mental health and substance use services to prevent crisis situations and arrests. NAMI-NYS will be reaching out to state and federal officials to share the importance of Medicaid to public safety. If you would like to partner with us, please contact Matthew Shapiro at [Matthew@naminys.org](mailto:Matthew@naminys.org) or by phone at 518-462-2000

Note: Attach the fact sheet in your email to law enforcement partners.

Want to do more?

Ask a law enforcement leader (police chief or sheriff) to share the impact of the impact of cutting Medicaid on law enforcement by:

\* Joining NAMI advocates in a meeting with your U.S. Senator or your Governor

- \* Writing (or providing a quote for) a letter-to-the-editor (LTE) or op-ed
- \* Signing on to a letter to your U.S. Senator requesting that Congress protect Medicaid
- \* Inviting your U.S. Senator to visit a local CIT program, mental health or drug court, FACT team or other mental health/criminal justice program that would be affected by cuts to Medicaid

As always, please coordinate efforts with your NAMI State Organization.