



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
Governor

Robert A.
Butterworth
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 2, 2007 **TRANSMITTAL NO:** P-07-08-0009

TO: ACCESS Florida Operations Managers
ACCESS Florida Program Offices

FROM: Nathan Lewis, Chief, Program Policy
Kara O'Brien, Chief FLORIDA Operations (**Signatures on File**)

SUBJECT: Foster Care Medicaid Expansion for Youth Exiting Foster Care

This memorandum is being issued to notify Child In Care (CIC) staff of a policy change relating to Medicaid eligibility for youth exiting foster care at age 18. Florida Statute 409.903 was amended in 2007 to allow Medicaid eligibility to continue for youth exiting foster care until they reach 21 years of age. This policy was effective July 1, 2007.

Background:

On June 15, 2007 Governor Crist signed into law Senate Bill 2114, which in part amended 409.903 of the Florida Statutes effective July 1, 2007. Medicaid is now extended to youth exiting foster care at the age of 18, until they reach age 21.

New Policy:

Young adults who exit foster care at the age of 18 who are eligible for services as young adults formerly in foster care as outlined in 409.1451(5) continue to be eligible for Medicaid until they reach the age of 21 without regard to any other income, assets or categorical requirements. As all young adults aging out of foster care meet this criteria CIC staff should continue their Medicaid eligibility for the next three years without additional contact from Family Safety/Community Based Care staff.

Note: A young adult is eligible to receive Medicaid through their birth month, unless born on the first day of the month. If the young adult was born on the first of the month, then eligibility ceases effective the month the young adult turns 21 years old.

If Family Safety/Community Based Care staff become aware of a change in circumstances that may end the young adult's eligibility (left state, death etc.) they must inform CIC staff using the Child In Care Communication Form (CF-ES 2694).

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery

CIC staff must schedule a review in the month before the young adult turns 21 to end the CIC Medicaid. Follow existing exparte procedures.

Please follow the FLORIDA instructions below for implementation. The policy manual will be updated shortly.

FLORIDA Instructions:

To implement this policy change, CIC staff must use the following instructions when performing eligibility reviews for young adults exiting foster care who turn 18 or older on or after July 1, 2007.

Although yearly contacts with Family Safety/Community Based staff are not required once the child turns 18, continue to extend the eligibility review date on the FLORIDA system using the ASRE driver. At the yearly review prior to the individual's 21st birthday, schedule the next review period to end the month before the young adult turns 21. During that review, close the case on AWAA using reason code 404.

If Program Office staff have any questions regarding the FLORIDA instructions please contact Patti Swann at Suncom 292-5505. Please contact Connie Evans at Suncom 291-5548 with any policy questions.

cc: Program Policy (Love, Schilling, Grignon)
FLORIDA Operations (Jenkins, Owens, Poirier)
Office of Appeal Hearings (Pritchard)
Office of General Counsel (Minnis)
Quality Control (Pearce)
FLORIDA Help Desk (Shaw-Johnson)
Agency for Health Care Administration (McAuley, Kidder, Hudson)
Family Safety (Linton, Wynn, Badland)
Florida Legal Services (C. Huddleston)