



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

DATE: April 7, 2015

TO: Regional Managing Directors
Community-Based Care Lead Agency Chief Executive Officers

THROUGH: Janice Thomas, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare
Jennifer Lange, Assistant Secretary for Economic Self Sufficiency
Pete Digre, Deputy Secretary/Operations

FROM: Kirk Brown, IL/EFC Operations Specialist, Office of Child Welfare

SUBJECT: Medicaid Coverage for Young Adults Ages 18-26 Being Served by the Department of Children and Families

PURPOSE: This memorandum notifies Region, Circuit and Community-Based Care (CBC) lead agency staff of a recent process clarification regarding young adults ages 18-26 who are served by the Department of Children and Families Child In Care Program.

BACKGROUND: Community advocates notified the Office of Child Welfare staff that young adults being served by the Department are being denied eligibility for Medicaid because the young adult decided to opt out of foster care. Federal and Florida law states that Medicaid eligible youth that reach the age of 18 in licensed care qualify for continued Medicaid coverage up to age 26. Child welfare staff in the Regions, Circuits and CBCs requested clarification regarding implementation of this process. Please see Department memo date 8/5/14 entitled "Medicaid coverage for young adults ages 18-26 who reach ages 18 while in foster care".

PROCESS CLARIFICATION: Young adults who reached age 18 while in licensed care and receiving Medicaid are eligible for Medicaid up to age 26 per section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(IX) of the Social Security Act. Youth exiting foster care at age 18 should have their Child In Care (CIC) Medicaid coverage continued until they reach age 21. Young adults formerly in foster care do not have to participate in Extended Foster Care or the Road to Independence program to remain CIC Medicaid eligible. Once the young adult turns 21, it is the responsibility of the young adult with assistance from their local CBC, to complete their Medicaid application and respond accordingly to the question about former foster care involvement.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- CBCs will update FSFN in the month prior to the IV-E eligible young adult's 18th birthday to show that the IV-E coverage will be changed to non IV-E and continued until the young adult turns age 21. Individuals who are currently receiving non IV-E coverage will continue in non IV-E coverage until age 21.
- CIC staff's responsibility is to provide Medicaid benefits to the young adult and to provide notification to the CBC for young adults ages 18-21.

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

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- CBCs' are responsible to directly assist active clients who are age 20 years and 11 months with completing and submitting the Medicaid application.
- CBCs will provide all active clients and community network partners with the attached Medicaid information one-pager.
- CBCs will educate young adults about the Medicaid process, informing them that they have automatic coverage until they turn 21 but at that point would need to submit a Medicaid application and answer "yes" to the former foster care question.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please disseminate this memorandum to all Region, Circuit and Community-Based Care lead agency staff and subcontracted agencies.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions, please contact Kirk Brown, Office of Child Welfare, at (850) 717-4326 or e-mail Kirk.Brown@myflfamilies.com

Attachment

cc: Traci Leavine, Director of Child Welfare Practice
Kellie Sweat Darnell, Director of Child Welfare Operations
Joshonda Guerrier, Director of Child Welfare Strategic Projects
Tonyaleah Veltkamp, Deputy Director/Chief of Quality Management
Susan Thomas, Medicaid Quality Control Manager
Regional Family and Community Services Directors

Medicaid Plan Map for Young Adults Formerly in Out-of-Home Care

IF YOU	AND YOU ARE	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Aged Out of Florida's Licensed or Non-Licensed Foster Care at Age 18 or Older	Not receiving any services	<p style="text-align: center;">General Medicaid Coverage through the Affordable Care Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the month prior to IV-E eligible young adult turning 18 year old, CBC updates FSFN to change IV-E Medicaid coverage to non IV-E. This will initiate the process to extend Non IV-E Medicaid coverage to age 21. Upon reaching age 21 years old, young adult is responsible for completing and submitting the Medicaid Application answering "Yes" to the Former Foster Care question. Young adult chooses managed care plan after case is authorized. <p>Note: If the young adult aged out at age 18, Medicaid is extended to age 21. So, the Affordable Care Act coverage would begin at age 21 and continue up to age 26 (the age-out Medicaid extension ends at 21), when the young adult completes the Medicaid application online.</p>							
	Eligible for Aftercare	<p style="text-align: center;">General Medicaid Coverage through the Affordable Care Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the month prior to IV-E eligible young adult turning age 18 years old, CBC updates FSFN to change IV-E Medicaid coverage to non IV-E. This will initiate the process to extend non IV-E Medicaid coverage to age 21. Young adult chooses managed care plan after case is authorized. 							
	Eligible for EFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In month prior to IV-E eligible young adult turning age 18 years old, CBC updates FSFN to change IV-E Medicaid coverage to Non IV-E. This will initiate the process to extend non IV-E Medicaid coverage to age 21. 				<p style="text-align: center;">General Medicaid Coverage through the Affordable Care Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adult with active cases age 21 and older will complete the Medicaid application online with the assistance of their local CBC. Young adult chooses Medicaid plan after case is authorized. 			
	Eligible for PESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opting out of foster care does not disqualify the young adult from Medicaid coverage. 				<p style="text-align: center;">General Medicaid Coverage through the Affordable Care Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adult with active cases age 21 and older will complete the Medicaid application online with the assistance of their local CBC. Young adult chooses Medicaid plan after case is authorized. 			
Eligible for RTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Young Adult chooses managed care plan after case is authorized. 				<p style="text-align: center;">General Medicaid Coverage through the Affordable Care Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adult with active cases age 21 and older will complete the Medicaid application online with the assistance of their local CBC. Young adult chooses Medicaid plan after case is authorized. 				
Were adopted from Foster Care or Closed to Protective Supervision in Guardianship at age 16 or 17 with 6 Months in Foster Care	Not receiving any services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child in Care staff will complete the Medicaid process to extend coverage to age 21, according to information received from the CBC. 				<p style="text-align: center;">The young adult may access coverage under adoptive parents' or guardians' health insurance.</p>			
	Eligible for PESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Young Adult chooses managed care plan after case is authorized. 							
	Eligible for RTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Young Adult chooses managed care plan after case is authorized. 							
Receive SSI		SSI Medicaid							

Foster care or Out-of-Home Care means 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or legal guardians and for whom the Title IV-E agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes but is not limited to placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities (excludes DJJ commitment facilities), relatives, non-relatives, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes.

Medicaid Plan Map for Young Adults Formerly in Out-of-Home Care

The Nancy C. Detert Common Sense and Compassion Independent Living Act went into effect January 1, 2014. This law provides current and former foster youth a variety of independent living programs and services to assist them in transitioning into adulthood at a pace that is most appropriate for their individual circumstances. These are:

1. **Extended Foster Care (EFC)** allows young adults living in a licensed placement on their 18th birthday to remain in foster care until their 21st birthday, or 22nd birthday, if they have a documented disability. Participants receive case management services, judicial oversight of their progress toward independence, room and board, as well as other services they need to succeed as independent adults. Participants develop a transition plan with the assistance of others to help guide them to success.
2. **Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS)** also is available to young adults, whether they decide to enroll in extended foster care or not. A monthly rate of \$1,256 is available to eligible students enrolled in post-secondary educational institutions to assist them with living expenses while they complete their higher education goals. This program ends on the young adult's 23rd birthday.
3. **Aftercare services (Aftercare)** - Young adults who are not enrolled in Extended Foster Care or PESS may receive Aftercare services or funding. These services are designed to provide a safety net for Young adults who find themselves in need of a helping hand.
4. **Road To Independence (RTI)** – Youth and young adults in existing Independent Living programs (Road to Independence, Subsidized Independent Living) as of Dec. 31, 2013, may remain in one of those grandfathered independent living programs. That young adult, if residing in licensed care upon turning 18, is eligible for EFC or PESS if within the age limitations and meeting the other requirements. Any youth who wishes to enter EFC (or PESS, if enrolled in a qualifying post-secondary program) forfeits the status of being grandfathered. The grandfathered Road to Independence program ends on the young adult's 23rd birthday.