




A5 Getting Healthcare STAT! Medi-Cal Former Foster Youth Enrollment 101

Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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Salon 2




Medi-Cal Coverage for Former Foster Youth

Partnership for Well Being Institute | June 15, 2016

CHILDREN NOW





Welcome & Introductions

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Oscar Sanchez, Former Foster Youth
Steven Fong, Department of Social Services
Susan Zimny, Department of Social Services
Daryl Hightower, Department of Health Care Services
Dee Paull, Department of Health Care Services
Jessica Haspel, Children Now

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Who's here?

Healthcare Providers
Foster Youths
Foster Parents
Social Workers
Probation Officers
Advocates
Lawyers
County Staff
Educators

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What do you need to learn today to help support Former Foster Youth?

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What we will cover

- The Former Foster Youth Perspective
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- Extended Medi-Cal for Former Foster Youth
- Enrollment and Benefits
- Foster Youth Transition to Former Foster Youth
- Resources for Former Foster Youth

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The Former Foster Youth Perspective

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The Affordable Care Act & Former Foster Youth



Allows young adults to remain on their parents' insurance up to **age 26**

Provides **equity** for Former Foster Youth through Medicaid up to **age 26**



Fills a critical need for a very **vulnerable population**

- FFY tend to have **higher health care needs** due to childhood abuse, neglect, and trauma
- Youth who age out of foster care often **lack adequate supports** to navigate the transition to adulthood

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Former Foster Youth Eligibility Today in CA

- In foster care at age 18 or older
 - In California, OR
 - In another state
- Living in California now
- **Up to age of 26**

No income or assets test.

Former foster youth qualify **regardless of placement type while in foster care.**



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Former Foster Youth Eligibility continued

Eligible for the **Former Foster Youth Medi-Cal Program** even if they:

- Have children
- Are married
- Currently have other health insurance
- Have income above 138% of the FPL

Former foster youth qualify **regardless of immigration status.**

No open enrollment period – FFY can **apply at anytime.**

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Why enroll as a former foster youth?

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Continuous coverage up to age 26

(simplified annual renewal each year & not discontinued due to loss of contact)



No income & assets requirements



More choices: FFY can choose **fee-for-service Medi-Cal or Medi-Cal managed care**



No cost health coverage. Allows FFY to save money for school, rent, and other necessities.

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What coverage is available?

No Cost, Full Scope Medi-Cal

EPSDT up to age 21

- Comprehensive screening, diagnosis and treatment
- Including vision, hearing, and dental

Adult Medi-Cal 21 and after

Includes medical care, vision exams, substance abuse treatment, dental, and mental health services.



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Quiz

Michael has been in foster care since he was 14. He is now 19 and receiving extended foster care benefits through AB 12. Is Michael eligible for Medi-Cal?

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Answer

Michael is eligible for Medi-Cal as a current foster youth. When he leaves foster care, he will be eligible for Medi-Cal as a former foster youth. Although his aid code will change, he should not have any break in coverage.

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Former Foster Youth Enrollment: Overview

Youth exiting foster care today do **NOT** need to fill out an application.

- automatically transitioned into the FFY program upon or in preparation for foster care exit with no interruption in coverage.

Youth who left care before 1/1/14 or who were in foster care in another state, may need to sign up. For these youth, the sign up process is streamlined.

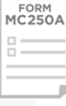
- **MC 250A FFY streamlined form**
- **Self-attestation = immediate enrollment**
 - Enrolled while county verifies former foster care status
 - Youth **NOT** required to provide foster care documentation
- **County verification of FFY status**
 - Counties required to verify status in CA by looking in the Child Welfare System/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)
 - If from another state, county must contact other state to verify

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Enrollment: How to Sign Up

BEST WAY

Apply directly through the county using one-page **MC 250A form**



Full Medi-Cal application **NOT** required. No income info needed.

Many counties have designated a **specific person, office, or phone number** for FFY to contact to enroll.

To find out more info:
http://www.childrennow.org/files/4514/2861/8455/Coveredtil26_CountyContactList.pdf

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Automatic Transition: Social Workers/ Probation Officers are vital to Medi-Cal for FFY

Before Case Closure:

Check with the Medi-Cal eligibility worker to ensure the foster youth's Medi-Cal coverage is active while still in foster care.

Provide foster youth with information about their ongoing eligibility for Medi-Cal until age 26 and the importance of notifying Medi-Cal if they move.

Confirm the foster youth has a Medi-Cal card (also called a Benefits Identification Card or BIC) and contact information for their Medi-Cal eligibility worker.

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Before Case Closure (Cont.):

Work with Medi-Cal eligibility worker to ensure the foster youth is automatically moved into the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth and assigned the "4M" aid code in preparation for or immediately upon exit from foster care.

After Case Closure:

Contact Medi-Cal eligibility worker to confirm enrollment in "4M" was successfully completed.

Provide the youth with confirmation that they have been enrolled in the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth until age 26.

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Enrollment: Applying Online through Covered California

FFY who applied online or through Covered California prior to October 2015 received inappropriate eligibility determinations due to a lack of FFY programming logic in CalHEERS.

- Counties have corrected these cases.

CalHEERS/Covered CA programming fixes pending are being implemented in 2 phases:

- October 2015:** implemented programming to prevent incorrect eligibility determinations & grant immediate eligibility
- 2016:** dynamic programming allows FFY to skip questions (e.g. tax and income questions)
 - Will still require more info than the MC 250A applying through the county

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Retention: Continuous coverage up to age 26

Simplified annual redetermination:

- No forms or packets to return
- Ex parte review by the county
- County to notify FFY on another year of coverage

No discontinuance due to a loss of contact:

- Move from Managed Care to Fee for Services if the FFY is enrolled in Managed Care

Before coverage can be terminated:

- Identify whether individual is eligible for another Insurance Affordability Program
- Provide Notice of Action with Appeal Rights

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FFY Medi-Cal Coverage When Attending School Out-of-State

Option #1: Maintain CA residency & keep Medi-Cal

- Must let county know that he/she plans to return to CA
- Medi-Cal will only cover emergency services in another state. Can still get preventative care in CA

Option #2: Discontinue Medi-Cal & apply for Medicaid in new state

- Must be a resident of new state to apply for Medicaid there
- Eligibility for Medicaid in new state depends on rules of new state
- If eligible for Medicaid in new state can get preventative care covered in new state

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FFY Medi-Cal Coverage While Temporarily Out-of-State

Medi-Cal only covers **emergency services** in another state.

- FFY should tell the out-of-state provider that he/she has Medi-Cal
- The out-of-state provider should contact the Medi-Cal Out-Of-State provider unit at (916) 636-1960 to get authorization for treatment
- The Health Consumer Alliance can provide legal assistance to youth who receive a bill for emergency services received while out of state. http://www.childrennow.org/files/5914/2792/0299/MCFFY-County_Health_Advocates.pdf

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Quiz

Nancy is 22.
She was placed in foster care in California when she was 15. At age 17 she was arrested, adjudicated a delinquent, and placed in a group Home. The placement was supervised by probation. Nancy remained in the group home until the juvenile court terminated jurisdiction when she turned 18. Is Nancy eligible for Medi-Cal?

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Answer

Yes, Nancy was in probation-supervised foster care and placed in a group home. She is eligible as a former foster youth.

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CDSS - Defining Foster Care for Purposes of the Medi-Cal Program for FFY

What does it mean to be "in foster care" at age 18 or older?

Youth are considered to be in foster care if the county or tribal agency has **placement and care responsibility** for the youth

- This **includes** probation youth who are placed in foster care.
- Receipt of foster care maintenance payments is not required

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Resources for Former Foster Youth

Independent Living Program (ILP) – provides benefits and services to help youth ages 16-21 gain the knowledge and skills to become successful, independent adults.

THP-Plus – an aftercare program that provides housing and supportive services for youth who were in foster care at age 18 or older.

Youth can stay in THP-Plus for up to 24 cumulative months until age 24.

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Higher Education Programs

- Independent status on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if exited foster care at or after the age of 13.
- Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES) Program (if all other eligibility criteria are met) if exited foster care at or after the age of 16.
- Chafee educational grant if in foster care at or after the age of 16

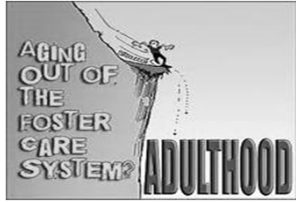
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Higher Education Programs

- Guardian Scholars Program run by community colleges and Cal State and UC universities. Eligibility requirements vary.
- Priority registration if exited foster care at or after the age of 18 or as otherwise defined by the specific post-secondary institution.
- Priority on-campus housing as described in Sections 76010, 90001.5 and 92660 of the California Education code.
- Preference for internships and student assistant positions within State agencies as specified in California Government code section 18220.

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CalFresh for Former Foster Youth



What is CalFresh?

Federally, the Food Stamp Program is known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP

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**CalFresh** is the name in California for the Food Stamp Program



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## Overview



Exiting and Former Foster Youth are automatically eligible to apply for these Free Services.

The CalFresh Program can add to your food budget to put healthy and nutritious food on the table.

The program issues monthly electronic benefits that can be used to buy most foods at many markets and food stores.

The CalFresh Program helps to improve the health and well-being of qualified households and individuals by providing them a means to meet their nutritional needs.

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## Overview (cont.)



The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is the designated single state agency responsible for program supervision at the state level, with county administration of the program.

Currently, more than 4 million individuals receive CalFresh benefits.

CalFresh is the largest safety net in California, issuing more than \$7 billion in CalFresh benefits annually.



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## Applying For CalFresh



To participate in CalFresh, households must meet certain income eligibility standards.

A household is a group of individuals who purchase and prepare meals together.

During FFY 2014, average monthly CalFresh benefits were of \$305.86 / household, and \$141.99 / person.



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## The EBT Card



Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) is the method of distribution for CalFresh benefits via a plastic debit card.

By using the EBT card, cardholders can access food benefits through point-of-sale (POS) terminals at stores and Farmers' Markets authorized by the USDA to accept CalFresh benefits.



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## Application Process



- Clients apply by submitting a CalFresh application to their local county CalFresh office in person, on-line, by fax, email, or via U.S. mail.
- The application is considered filed if it includes the applicant's name, address, and signature.
- An interview is required and the application must be signed under penalty of perjury.
- Application timeframe is 30 days following the date the application was filed.




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**Questions?  
Feedback from the  
field?**

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## DHCS FFY Web-Site

- Resources for FFY
  - Outreach materials
  - Youth friendly design
  - Linkage to other support programs
- Resources for Social Workers, Probation Officers, and Service Providers
  - Tips and instructional letters for workers
  - Data
  - Information on workgroups and stakeholder meetings
- DHCS FFY Website:  
<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medicaid/eligibility/Pages/FFY.aspx>

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## Help Spread the Word! - Coveredtil26

For additional resources

Coveredtil26 is a statewide outreach campaign to inform former foster youth about Medi-Cal coverage until age 26.

### Resources:

- Visit [www.coveredtil26.org](http://www.coveredtil26.org), a youth-friendly website with FAQs, resources, and tips on how to sign up.
- Download **free Coveredtil26 outreach materials** & share.
- FFY who have additional questions or need more help can email [coveredtil26@childrennow.org](mailto:coveredtil26@childrennow.org).



Children Now is spearheading Coveredtil26. Funded by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation.

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## CalFresh Resources

Department of Social Services Home Page  
<http://www.calfresh.ca.gov/>

Eligibility and Issuance Requirements  
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/foodstamps/PG841.htm>

CalFresh Extranet Home Page  
<http://www.cdsscounties.ca.gov/foodstamps/>

USDA FNS State Level SNAP Data  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### CHILDREN NOW



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# COVERED 26



## Former foster youth are eligible for free health care

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires states to provide young adults under 26 with free health care if they were in foster care at age 18 or older. This ensures that former foster youth can access the health care services they need – just like non-foster youth who can stay on their parents' insurance plans until 26.

### Former foster youth qualify for free Medi-Cal coverage if they:

- Were in foster care in ANY state at age 18 or older,
- Currently live in California, AND
- Are under the age of 26.

Youth are eligible regardless of income.

### Do youth still in foster care need to reapply for Medi-Cal when they leave foster care?

NO. As of January 1, 2014, young adults should be automatically moved into the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth when they leave foster care at age 18 or older. Youth who were in foster care in another state or who left foster care prior to January 1, 2014, may still need to sign up for this program.

### 4 reasons former foster youth should sign up for the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth:

- 1 No Income Requirements.**  
Former foster youth qualify for free coverage until 26 regardless of how much money they earn, eliminating the need to answer income questions when they go to sign up.
- 2 Continuous Coverage.**  
Once enrolled in the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth, youth stay covered until 26 with no need to reapply each year.
- 3 Flexibility.**  
Youth enrolled in the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth can choose fee-for-service coverage in many counties, which means they can go to any doctor, clinic, therapist or hospital that takes Medi-Cal. This flexibility is critical given this population's high mobility.
- 4 Comprehensive Coverage.**  
The Medi-Cal program for former foster youth includes medical care, vision exams, dental care, substance abuse treatment, and mental health coverage.

Youth who sign up for the free Medi-Cal program for former foster youth will be assigned the 4M aid code, allowing them to receive all the advantages listed above until they turn 26.

## **How do young adults sign up for the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth?**

Former foster youth should sign up through a county social services office. They can apply using a simple, one-page application for former foster youth (MC 250A). Most counties have specific staff, phone numbers, or offices to help former foster youth. For information on the best way to apply in each county, visit: [coveredtil26.childrennow.org/how-to-sign-up](http://coveredtil26.childrennow.org/how-to-sign-up).

## **What if a young adult is not sure at what age he or she left foster care?**

Some young adults may not realize they were in foster care at age 18 or older because, for example, they lived with relatives, left their placement without approval, or were placed in probation-supervised foster care as a result of a juvenile delinquency case. These youth may qualify for the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth and should be encouraged to apply using the short, one-page application (MC 250A). The county will verify the age at which the young adult left foster care.

## **Are young adults required to bring proof of their former foster youth status when they go to sign up?**

NO. Young adults who self-identify as former foster youth should be immediately enrolled in the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth and assigned the '4M' aid code. The young adult will receive free health care services while the county verifies that he or she was in foster care at age 18 or older.

## **How can my organization help?**

- Tell former foster youth about the advantages of enrolling in the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth.
- When providing enrollment assistance to young adults under the age of 26, be sure to ask if they were in foster care at age 18 or older and tell them that former foster youth qualify for free Medi-Cal coverage until age 26 regardless of income.
- Encourage young adults to email us at [coveredtil26@childrennow.org](mailto:coveredtil26@childrennow.org) if they have trouble enrolling or have more questions.

Here's how Children Now can help support your outreach efforts:

### **[www.coveredtil26.org](http://www.coveredtil26.org):**

Visit our youth-friendly website for information and outreach materials.

### **Trainings and Presentations:**

For training support or for presentations email [coveredtil26@childrennow.org](mailto:coveredtil26@childrennow.org).

