

Health Care for Former Foster Youth

FREE Medicaid Until age 26!

Understanding Healthcare can be confusing but add the additional layer of time spent in foster care and it can seem impossible to figure out. Let us help you by laying out some facts!

Eligibility Requirements:

- Between ages 18-26 (ending on your 26th birthday) and have been in foster care or had an open child welfare case at age 18.
- “The Support Act” now allows young adults who turn 18 after January 1, 2023 coverage in any state as long as they are otherwise eligible - so if you moved from the state where you were in foster care to a different state, you can still access this benefit!*

**If you turned 18 before January 1, 2023 the new act currently does not expand Medicaid to 26 outside of the state where you experienced care. This doesn't mean you're not eligible, so we recommend applying no matter what to see what's possible.*



PRO TIPS:

- Say you are a former foster youth when applying at your local Medicaid office or online.
- Ask if there is a **special application** to apply for Medicaid as a former foster youth.
- **Learn your state's process for renewal** - sometimes you have to complete new paperwork every year, other times it is automatically renewed. Know your state's situation!
- **Advocate for yourself** by ensuring health care coverage is part of your transition plan! Talk to your caseworker, ILP worker, CASA, or another supportive adult to double check.

4 reasons to sign up for Medicaid Health Coverage for Former Foster Youth:

1. **It's FREE.** You can save your money for school, rent, food, and other things you need.
2. **You are eligible until your 26th Birthday.** Check with your local benefits office to find out if you're eligible and what you need to do to renew your coverage each year.
3. **Eligibility not based on income.** Medicaid usually includes income requirements, but there are no income requirements for former foster youth.
4. **Your health matters.** If you are not healthy, it's hard to meet your goals. Good health insurance and health care can help you stay healthy!

TALK TO US!

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