



# Health Care for Former Foster Youth

## **FREE** Medicaid until Age 26!

### 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.
- **NEW!** New federal policy called “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.*

### 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!

### 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.

**Still not sure if you qualify or have questions?**

Go to [healthcareffy.org](https://healthcareffy.org) or Contact [outreach@fosterclub.com](mailto:outreach@fosterclub.com)