



THE NEW MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR YOUTH WHO AGE OUT FOSTER CARE IN RHODE ISLAND TO AGE 26

QUICK FACTS

Starting on January 1, 2014, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) extends the Post Foster Care Medicaid coverage group (“Chafee Medicaid”) to youth who aged out of foster care until the youth’s 26th birthday. Youth will be eligible for Medicaid under this new category if they:

- Were in foster care under the responsibility of the state on the youth’s 18th birthday and therefore aged out of foster care on or after January 1, 2007; and
- Were enrolled in Medicaid or a waiver program while in such foster care. Are under 26 years of age; and
- Are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) extends the upper age for which youth who are eligible for Rhode Island’s Post Foster Care Medicaid Coverage to the young adult’s 26th birthdate. All youth who were in DCYF Foster Care (all out of home care excluding the RI Training School) and who closed to DCYF and the Family Court are eligible for Post Foster Care Medicaid Coverage.

WHAT ADULT SUPPORTERS CAN DO

- **IF YOU KNOW A FORMER DCYF FOSTER YOUTH WHO IS TURNING 21 OR ALREADY HAS TURNED 21 BUT IS NOT YET 26 BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2014:**
 - TELL THE YOUTH TO CONTACT DCYF TO RE-ENROLL
 - TELL YOUTH WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO CONTACT DCYF TO ENROLL, OR
 - ENSURE THEY ARE ENROLLED.
- **HELP MAKE SURE YOUTH AGING OUT OF CARE KNOW THAT THEY ARE ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR THIS COVERAGE IF THEY ARE IN DCYF FOSTER CARE AND OPEN TO THE FAMILY COURT ON THEIR 18TH BIRTHDAY**
- **HELP INFORM JUDGES, CASA AND OTHER DECISION MAKERS OF THE YOUTH’S ENTITLEMENT TO MEDICAID TO AGE 26 IF THEY ARE IN FOSTER CARE AND OPEN TO THE FAMILY COURT ON OR AFTER THEIR 18TH BIRTHDAY**

WHAT ADULT SUPPORTERS SHOULD KNOW NOW

Rhode Island established the Post Foster Care Medicaid Coverage Group in 2007 but limited eligibility up to the youth’s 21st birthday. The ACA extends this coverage to the youth’s 26th birthday just as other young adults can stay on their parent’s health insurance up to the young person’s 26th birthday.

Any youth who left or leaves foster care on or after the youth’s 18th birthday as of January 1, 2007 is eligible for Post Foster Care Medicaid. DCYF automatically enrolls youth aging out in Post Foster Care Medicaid as soon as the youth’s case closes to Family Court. However, some young adults who turned 21 before January 1, 2014 will need to be re-enrolled because under the old rules they lost their coverage at age 21. As well, some young people who are on RItShare and who age out at 18 will have the option to remain on RItShare or switch to the Post Foster Care Medicaid Coverage Group.

Discharging youth to independent living prior to the age of 18 will preclude participation in the Post Foster Care Medicaid Coverage Group. However, they may be eligible under other income related categories and should contact HealthSource RI (<http://www.healthsourceri.com/>) for more information

HOW CAN YOUTH ENROLL OR RE-ENROLL?

If you are assisting someone who aged out of foster care in RI who you think is eligible for the Post Foster Care Medicaid Coverage Group and needs to enroll/re-enroll, please have the young person call a Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Eligibility Technician for some assistance. Technician’s are assigned based on a person’s last name as follows:

- A thru DE - Call DCYF Eligibility Technician Teresa McLean @ (401) 528-3642
- DF thru LAG - Call DCYF Eligibility Technician Lauren Joaquin @ (401) 528-3653
- LAH thru RAL - Call DCYF Eligibility Technician Steven Woodruff @ (401) 528-3643
- RAM-Z - Call DCYF Eligibility Technician Daisy Castrillon @ (401) 528-3654