

MEDI-CAL COVERAGE FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

If you were in foster care on your 18th birthday, you are eligible for free Medi-Cal benefits until your 26th birthday. You are eligible for these benefits regardless of your income.

Want more information on how to sign up? We are building a full website (www.coveredtil26.com) so that we can provide you with updated information and tips on how to apply for Medi-Cal coverage for former foster youth. Until our full website is ready, we've put together this helpful information sheet. We will update this information sheet as we learn more. Please keep checking back for the most up-to-date information!

WHEN CAN I SIGN UP?

ANYTIME. The law expanding Medi-Cal coverage for former foster youth up to age 26 took effect on January 1, 2014. There is no open enrollment period for Medi-Cal and you can apply anytime of the year.

WHERE AND HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Right now, the BEST way for former foster youth to enroll in Medi-Cal coverage is to apply directly through the COUNTY. The quickest and easiest way to enroll is to apply IN PERSON at a county Medi-Cal office.

If you apply directly through the county, you will only need to complete a simple, one-page form (known as the MC 250A) to enroll in coverage.

Some changes will soon be made to the MC 250A form to reflect the expansion of coverage up to age 26. In the meantime, former foster youth up to 26 can use the current version of the MC 250A form to apply for coverage.

The MC 250A can be found at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/forms/Forms/mc250a.pdf>

Here is a listing of county offices where you can apply for Medi-Cal coverage:
<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices2.aspx>

Right now, applying online through the Covered California website is NOT the best, easiest, or quickest way to enroll in Medi-Cal coverage for former foster youth. Why is this?

- Former foster youth shouldn't have to answer questions about income, taxes, and employment. Former foster youth who apply for coverage in person at a county office

won't have to provide income and employment information. They can apply using the one-page MC250A form.

- Right now, the online application does not allow former foster youth to skip unnecessary application questions. Covered California is working to make fixes to the online application so former foster youth can easily apply for coverage in the future. Until those fixes are made, former foster youth who try to apply for coverage through the Covered California website will have to complete the full application. This means former foster youth will have to answer many unnecessary questions and/or provide unnecessary paperwork before their applications can be processed.
- Until fixes are made to the online application, it's also possible that former foster youth won't be correctly and quickly identified as eligible for Medi-Cal coverage based on their former foster youth status.

ENROLLMENT TIPS AND REMINDERS

- Be sure to say you are a former foster youth when you go to sign up for Medi-Cal coverage.
- The best way to apply for coverage right now is in person at your county Medi-Cal office.
- You are not required to provide income information when you apply for Medi-Cal coverage for former foster youth.
- You are not required to bring proof that you were in foster care at 18. The county will verify that you were in foster care at age 18.
- If you were in foster care in another state, you should say which state you were in care when you apply for benefits. This will help the county determine which state to contact to verify that you were in foster care at age 18.
- The expansion of Medi-Cal coverage for former foster youth up to age 26 is new so people are still learning about it. It's possible that some county staff and Medi-Cal eligibility workers may not know about this expansion. Here are some tips on what to say if a county Medi-Cal worker tells you that he or she doesn't know about the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth:
 - Former foster youth should be enrolled in the Former Foster Care Child (FFCC) coverage group. Former foster youth should be assigned the "4M" aid code.
 - The California law that expands Medi-Cal coverage for former foster youth up to age 26 is California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 14005.28.