



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Rick Scott
Governor

Esther Jacobo
Interim Secretary

DATE: March 10, 2014 **TRANSMITTAL NO.:** P-14-03-0005

TO: Economic Self-Sufficiency Operations Managers
Economic Self-Sufficiency Program Offices

FROM: Dianna Laffey, Chief, Program Policy (**Signature on File**)

SUBJECT: Former Foster Care Medicaid

EFFECTIVE: Upon Receipt

This memorandum provides information to staff about the implementation of the new Family-Related Medicaid coverage group for individuals that aged out of Foster Care in Florida.

Coverage for former foster care (FCC) children not eligible or enrolled in any other mandatory Medicaid coverage group is available for young adults up to age 26. A new coverage group (MA I) has been assigned for individuals eligible under this group. Individuals that aged out of foster care in another state are not eligible for this coverage.

Foster care means 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the state or tribal agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, relative caregiver placements and pre-adoptive homes.

Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility requirements for individuals to qualify for this type of coverage are based on the following:

- Under age 26,
- Enrolled in or received Medicaid when they aged out of Florida's Foster Care Program at age 18 (or 21 as appropriate), and
- Not otherwise eligible for or enrolled in mandatory Medicaid coverage.

Note: There is no income limit or asset test for this coverage group.

Application Process

- When the individual completes an application, they must answer "**Yes**" to the Former Foster Care question if they are a former foster care young adult.

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- The status of the former foster care requirement will be validated electronically by the Office of Child Welfare via the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN).
- FSFN will return a “**Verified**” or “**Unknown**” electronic validation that will display in the ACCESS SUMMARY of online applications in the **Aged out of foster care verified by Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN)** field.
 - If “Verified”, staff must enter a “Y” in the Aged Out of Foster Care (Aged Out FC) field on the AIMC screen in FLORIDA and authorize any Medicaid category that passes on AWAA (MM P, MA R, MA I, etc.).
 - If “Unknown” and the individual is between the ages of 18 and 26, staff must enter a “?” in the Aged Out of FC field on the AIMC screen. Contact must be made with Child Welfare staff following regional procedures to determine if the individual meets FFC criteria and FLORIDA updated appropriately. Staff must follow the same process for paper applications filed with a “Yes” to the Former Foster Care question.
- If the FFC status has been verified via FSFN or Child Welfare and any other Medicaid category passes, it should be authorized. However, if another Medicaid category is pending for additional information or fails for any reason (ex. income, sanction, etc.) FLORIDA should build and pass MA I, which must be authorized. If FLORIDA does not build and pass MA I in these scenarios, staff must manually build MA I on AGCC and authorize coverage.
- If the customer later provides the pending verification or reports a change, FLORIDA must be updated and ED/BC ran. If another Medicaid category passes, it should be authorized and MA I closed with a code 249, ensuring no lapse in coverage.
 - If a FFC verified individual no longer meets the criteria for another Medicaid category, eligibility under MA I must be reopened ensuring no lapse in coverage.

If there are policy questions, Region offices may contact Faye Franklin at (850) 717-4095. For systems questions contact Lynn Rossow 717-4100.

cc: Interim Director (Sharron Washington)
Customer Call Center (Pat Badland, Liesta Sykes, Irene Hill, Georgina Santana)
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Office of Communications (Alexis Lambert)
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Florida Bar Elder Law Section (Emma Hemness, Twyla Sketchley)
Florida Legal Services (Cindy Huddleston)

Former Foster Care Medicaid Job Aid



Coverage for former foster care children not eligible or enrolled in any other mandatory Medicaid coverage group is available for young adults up to age 26. A new coverage group (MA I) is assigned for individuals eligible under this group.

Eligibility Criteria

- Under age 26,
- Enrolled in or received Medicaid when they aged out of Florida’s Foster Care Program at age 18 (or 21 as appropriate), and
- Not otherwise eligible for or enrolled in mandatory Medicaid coverage.

Note: There is no income limit or asset test for this coverage group.

Application Process

When an individual completes an application, they must answer **“Yes”** to the Former Foster Care question if they are a former foster care young adult. The individual’s status will be validated electronically by the Office of Child Welfare via the Florida Safe Families Network. The validation status will display in the ACCESS Summary in the **“Aged out of foster care verified by Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN)”** field.

IF	THEN
“N/A” appears in the “Aged out of foster care verified by Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN)” field on the ACCESS Summary in AMS, the individual answered “No” or did not answer the Aged Out of Foster Care question on a paper application.	The individual did NOT answer “Y” to the Former Foster Care question in the Self-Service Portal (SSP) or on the paper application. The Aged Out of Foster Care (Aged Out of FC) entry on the AIMC screen should be “N”.
“Verified” appears in the “Aged out of foster care verified by Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN)” field on the ACCESS Summary in AMS or verified manually by Child Welfare staff.	Enter a “Y” in the Former Foster Care field on the AIMC screen and authorize any Medicaid category that passes (MA I, MA R, MM P, etc).
The status is NOT electronically verified by FSFN and the individual is between the ages of 18-26, “Unknown” will appear in the “Aged out of foster care verified by Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN)” field or paper applications when “Yes” is answered to the FFC question.	Enter a “?” in the former foster care field on the AIMC screen. Use regional procedures to contact Child Welfare staff to determine if the individual meets Former Foster Care criteria. This procedure must also be used for paper applications when a “Y” is answered to the Former Foster Care question. Once the Former Foster Care status is verified, update the AIMC screen with a “Y” entry and document CLRC. If the Former Foster Care status is not verified, staff must update the AIMC screen with an “N” entry and document CLRC.
At any time prior to reaching age 26, the Aged out of foster care individual loses Medicaid eligibility.	The MA I category must be opened so that there is no break in coverage.
The individual has been verified as an “Aged out of foster care” individual, and “Y” has been entered on the AIMC screen but the FLORIDA system has created another category with a Pending Status.	Staff must change the category to MA I on the AGCC screen. ED/BC will loop and create the MA I category for the individual on AGCD.
The Former Foster Care individual is pending for information for other programs (i.e. food assistance or TCA) or fails another Medicaid category for any reason such as income or sanctions.	FLORIDA should build and pass MA I for the Former Foster Care individual. If it does not, staff must manually build the MA I category on the AGCC screen, authorize the coverage and document CLRC.
The Former Foster Care individual later provides pending verification or reports a change resulting in eligibility for another Medicaid category.	FLORIDA must be updated and ED/BC run. If another Medicaid category passes, authorize that category and close MA I with a code 249, ensuring no lapse in coverage. If another full Medicaid category does not pass, continue the MA I.