
EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDICAID COVERAGE TO AGE 26 FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH (FFY) PROVISION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA)

A Checklist for State Advocates
December 2015

This checklist can help states determine if they are implementing the Medicaid coverage to age 26 for Former Foster Youth (FFY) provision in a way that maximizes the number of young adults who have insurance coverage and maintain it at least until age 26. It aims to help states determine where they are in the implementation process and what action steps they can take to improve their policies.

Enrollment of Young Adults as they Exit Foster Care

1. Is there a process for youth to be automatically enrolled in the former foster youth (FFY) eligibility category as they age out?

- Yes
- No

2. Is enrollment, or documenting that enrollment has occurred, part of your state's transition planning processes?

- Yes
- No

3. Is there a process for ensuring that youth who are adjudicated delinquent but are placed in "foster care" and enrolled in Medicaid at age 18 or older are also enrolled in the former foster youth eligibility category as they age out?

- Yes
- No

4. In 2008, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act required states and tribes to develop a plan for the ongoing oversight and coordination of health care services for any child in foster care. Does your state have a coordinated health plan?

- Yes
- No
- I am not sure

5. If you checked yes to question 4 above, does the coordinated health plan include a description of how former foster youth are enrolled in Medicaid as they leave the child welfare system at age 18 or older?

- Yes
- No
- I am not sure

Involvement of the Court

6. Have policies been put in place so that the court asks about whether the youth has been enrolled in Medicaid as a former foster youth as part of the transition planning requirement?

- Yes
 No

Enrollment and Renewal of Coverage of Young Adults Who Have Exited Foster Care and Are Under Age 21

7. Is there a streamlined process to enroll young adults who have already aged out, but are eligible for coverage? (Check all that apply)

- The regular Medicaid application has been amended to ask only the relevant questions.
 A special (shortened) application has been developed.
 Individual(s) in the Medicaid agency have been designated to assist young adults with the application.
 Individual(s) in the child welfare agency have been designated to assist young adults with the application.
 Individual(s) in another agency have been designated to assist young adults with the application. If so, please list agency: _____,
 Other: _____

8. How does your state verify a former foster youth's eligibility?

- The child welfare agency (or other agency overseeing child welfare) shares data on eligible former foster youth with the Medicaid agency.
 The Medicaid agency internally verifies eligibility without requesting documentation from the young adult.
 The state allows self-attestation with no other need for verification.
 The state allows self-attestation, but then seeks verification from external sources.
 The state allows self-attestation and a supporting statement from a third party that knows the young adult.
 Other: _____

9. Does the child welfare agency provide young adults documentation of former foster youth status as part of transition planning or as they exit care?

- Yes
 No

10. Has a process been put in place to reduce barriers to yearly renewals of coverage until age 26?

- Yes, eligibility lasts until age 26 and yearly renewal is not required.
 Yes, renewal is automatic.
 Yes, while renewal is not automatic, coverage is not terminated if mail is returned or if information provided is incomplete.
 No, the young adult is expected to complete renewal documents on an annual basis.
 Other: _____

Chafee Medicaid Coverage

11. Does your state currently have Chafee Medicaid Coverage?

- Yes
 No

12. Does your state have a clear process for automatically transitioning Chafee Medicaid eligible youth to the former foster care category?

- Yes
 No

Coverage of Out-of-State Youth

13. Does your state provide coverage for out-of-state youth?

- Yes
 No

14. If your state covers out-of-state youth, how is eligibility verified?

- The young adult must provide documentation of eligibility.
 The Medicaid or child welfare agency verifies eligibility without requesting documentation from the young adult.
 The Medicaid or child welfare agency assists the youth in securing proof of eligibility from the state in which he or she was in foster care.
 The state allows self-attestation with no other need for verification.
 The state allows self-attestation, but then seeks verification from external sources.
 The state allows self-attestation and a supporting statement from a third party that knows the young adult.
 Other: _____

15. If your state covers out-of-state youth, is it collecting data on this group?

- Yes
 No

16. If your state covers out-of-state youth, did it implement this through legislation or regulation/policy?

Please explain: _____

Outreach/Education

17. Does the child welfare agency inform youth/young adults prior to discharge of former foster youth coverage and options if they move out of state as part of the transition planning process?

- Yes
 No

18. Does the child welfare agency have a plan for outreach (e.g., mailings, PSAs, flyers, billboards, etc.) to inform young adults, professionals working with young adults, and advocates about the new FFY coverage?

- Yes
- No

19. Does the Medicaid agency have a plan for outreach? (e.g., mailings, PSAs, flyers, billboards, etc.) to inform young adults, professionals working with young adults, and advocates about the new coverage?

- Yes
- No

20. Does the advocacy community have a plan for outreach (e.g., mailings, PSAs, flyers, billboards, etc.) to inform young adults, professionals working with young adults, and advocates about the new coverage?

- Yes
- No

21. Have the outreach plans that have been developed included current and former foster youth in their design?

- Yes
- No

22. If you checked yes to 17,18,19, or 20, do any of those outreach plans include strategies for reaching youth and young adults who are delinquent, but were placed in “foster care” and enrolled in Medicaid at age 18 or older?

- Yes
- No

23. Are other outreach strategies being employed?

- Yes
- No

If so, please describe:

Training

24. If you have checked yes to 18, 19, 20, or 21, have child welfare workers been trained on former foster youth Medicaid coverage?

- Yes
- No

25. Have Medicaid staff been trained on former foster youth Medicaid coverage?

- Yes
- No

26. Have youth aging out been provided training on former foster youth Medicaid coverage?

- Yes
- No

27. Have other stakeholders been trained on former foster youth Medicaid coverage?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe:

Data Collection

28. Is the state collecting data on how many young adults are likely to be eligible for the former foster youth category annually?

- Yes
- No

29. Has the state reported data on how many young adults have already exited foster care at age 18 or older and are still under age 26?

- Yes
- No

30. Is the state collecting data on how many young adults are covered under the former foster youth provision by age?

- Yes
- No

31. If the state is covering out-of-state youth, is data being collected to determine the number of youth covered under the former foster youth provision that are from out of state?

- Yes
- No