

Continued Medicaid Eligibility for Most Young Adults Who Have Aged Out of Foster Care Starts January 1, 2014

Under the new Federal Health Care Law, most young adults who have aged out of New Jersey's foster care system may be eligible for Medicaid until they turn 26.

Effective January 1, 2014,
any young adult under age 26 who, as of his or her 18th or 21st birthday,
was in foster care*
AND
was enrolled in Medicaid
may be eligible for Medicaid until he or she turns 26, regardless of income.

As of January 1, 2014, young adults who turned 18 on or after January 1, 2006, and were in foster care on their 18th or 21st birthday, may be eligible for this program. This includes youth who age out of foster care starting in 2014, and those who have already aged out, if they are still under age 26.

This NJ Medicaid benefit is only available to young adults currently residing in New Jersey and who received foster care services through New Jersey.

A youth who is in foster care as a child or teen but leaves the foster care system before his/her 18th birthday will not qualify under this new category of Medicaid eligibility. However, some young adults may return to foster care after age 18 and may be eligible for this benefit when they age out of foster care at age 21. Also, some uninsured young adults may still be eligible for Medicaid under a different eligibility category. All former foster youth are encouraged to contact Medicaid Extension for Young Adults at 1-888-235-4766.

Medicaid eligibility for qualifying former foster youth is a requirement of the new Federal Health Care Law and puts former foster youth on equal footing with other young adults who can remain covered under their parents' or guardian's health insurance until age 26.

Call 1-888-235-4766 for information

* Foster care means 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State 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, and pre-adoptive homes.