

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

July 9, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF  
FROM: DAVID WOOD, DIRECTOR  
SUBJECT: EXPANDED MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR OUT-OF-STATE  
FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH RESIDING IN MISSOURI

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform staff that MO HealthNet is now offering Medicaid coverage to former foster care youth who exited care from another state but are living in Missouri. This coverage is available immediately to eligible youth.

**Background**

Pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), effective 2014, youth exiting foster care are eligible for extended Medicaid coverage to age 26 if they were in foster care under the responsibility of the state at the age of 18. For Missouri youth, state statute expands this eligibility to include youth who were in foster care any time during the preceding 30 days of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. FACES calculates eligibility upon AC function closure and, if the criteria are met, the youth is enrolled in the Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth coverage located on the General Functions Home Page.

When the ACA expanded Medicaid coverage provision went into effect, states had the option to provide the expanded coverage to youth who exited care from another state; few states adopted this option. However, in October 2018, Section 1002 of the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT Act) for Patients and Communities Act amended the ACA provision, requiring all states to provide expanded Medicaid coverage to former foster care youth regardless from which state they exited care. This new Medicaid statute must be in effect nationwide by January 2023. MO HealthNet Division, Children's Division, and Family Support Division have made preparations over the past several months allowing Missouri to implement this provision effective immediately.

## Eligibility Criteria

- **AGE:** Youth residing in Missouri who exited foster care in another state at the age of 18 or later, and who are not yet 26.
- **DOCUMENTATION:** Youth must have documentation from the state they exited care verifying they were in foster care and receiving Medicaid coverage at the age of 18. Documentation of foster care status could include a letter from the foster care state or court order showing the date the youth exited foster care. Verification of Medicaid coverage could be included in the letter from the foster care state or a copy of the youth's Medicaid card from the foster care state.
- **INELIGIBLE FOR OTHER MANDATORY COVERAGE:** Unlike eligible Missouri youth exiting foster care who are enrolled automatically, youth who exited foster care in another state must apply for Missouri Medicaid through Family Support Division (FSD). FSD must determine if the youth qualifies for another mandatory category of coverage (ex., MO HealthNet for Pregnant Women, MO HealthNet for Families, MO HealthNet for the Aged, Blind, or Disabled, etc.). If the youth does not qualify for another category of coverage, the youth will be enrolled in the Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth expanded Medicaid program, if the age and documentation criteria are met.

## Application Process

- When staff learn a former foster care youth from out-of-state is under age 26 and is uninsured, staff should refer the individual to the designated [Older Youth Transition Specialist](#) (OYTS) for that region. Please obtain the youth's:
  - Name
  - Date of birth
  - Current address
  - Phone number and email, if applicable
- The OYTS will:
  - Make contact with the youth to ensure the youth resides in Missouri, was in foster care at the age of 18, and is under the age of 26;
  - Coordinate with the foster care state, if necessary, to obtain the required documentation of the youth's foster care status and Medicaid coverage; and
  - Submit the youth's contact information and documentation to FSD Central Office who will contact the youth and begin the application process.
- If FSD determines the youth does not qualify for a mandatory category of coverage – and the youth meets the criteria for former foster care health care coverage – FSD will make the approval and the youth's eligibility will show in the FACES Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth screen.

<b>NECESSARY ACTION</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff.</li> <li>2. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:</li> </ol>	
<b>PDS CONTACT</b> Lori Masek 573-592-1007 <a href="mailto:Lori.Masek@dss.mo.gov">Lori.Masek@dss.mo.gov</a>	<b>MANAGER CONTACT</b> Ivy Doxley 573-526-1422 <a href="mailto:Ivy.Doxley@dss.mo.gov">Ivy.Doxley@dss.mo.gov</a>
<b>CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS</b>	
4.5.11.2 Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth	
<b>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS</b>	
N/A	
<b>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES</b>	
N/A	
<b>RELATED STATUTE</b>	
N/A	