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Issued by: Lori Masek

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## Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth to Age 26 FACES Updates

### Background:

In 2014, the Affordable Care Act provided a mandatory eligibility pathway to Medicaid until age 26 for youth formerly in foster care. This mandate provides extended health care coverage for qualifying former foster care youth similar to those youth not in foster care who are able to remain on their parents' health care plans until age 26.

### Eligibility for Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth (HCFFCY) Coverage:

- To qualify for HCFFCY extended Medicaid coverage to age 26, an individual must be in foster care, under the responsibility of the state, at any time in the 30 days preceding their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or after.
- FACES calculates eligibility for HCFFCY coverage when an AC case automatically closes at age 21, or when a supervisor approves closure of an AC case for youth under age 21.
- If eligible, the youth's extended Medicaid eligibility information will appear in the Health Care for Former Foster Youth Care screen under the FACES General Functions domain the next day.

### FACES HCFFCY Screen – Required Action Starting 4/1/23:

When the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) was declared in March 2020, FACES changes were made to comply with the PHE mandate for continuous Medicaid coverage. Specifically, Medicaid was kept active in the background of closed cases during this time. As a result, youth qualifying for extended health care coverage to age 26 did not migrate automatically to the HCFFCY screen upon case closure.

- On 4/1/23, all youth who exited Alternative Care March 2020 – March 2023 will migrate over to the HCFFCY screen in General Functions.
- Effective 4/1/23, FACES changes made to comply with the PHE will be removed and FACES will resume calculating a youth's eligibility for HCFFCY coverage upon AC case closure.
  - If eligible, the youth's Medicaid eligibility information will open in the HCFFCY the day after function closure.
  - **\*\*It is imperative that staff visit the HCFFCY the day after AC case closure and enter the youth's last known address and phone number. If the youth has a known email address, please enter it in the Comments box.**

## **Implications if Youth's Address is Not Entered in the HCFFCY Screen:**

If an address is not entered in the HCFFCY screen the day after the AC case closes, the youth's managed care plan enrollment (Show Me Healthy Kids) is closed since FACES has no address to send to MO HealthNet's database. If the MO HealthNet database has no address, it assumes the youth does not reside in Missouri and it ends managed care enrollment.

Although the youth's health care benefits covered by the managed care plan will move over to their MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service ("straight Medicaid") plan, the youth does not know this. As a result, it is not uncommon for a youth to try to access services using their managed care plan card/information and be told by the provider they do not have active Medicaid (because the provider cannot find the youth's eligibility in the managed care plan's system). The youth may not know how to navigate the situation, whom to contact for help, and may go, unnecessarily, years without accessing services because they believe they lost their Medicaid coverage. Additionally, the Care Management service provided through the Show Me Healthy Kids plan is terminated when the enrollment ends and the youth no longer receives much-needed support and health care coordination.

## **Other Reminders:**

- Contact information for former foster care youth with the extended Medicaid coverage to age 26 can be updated in the HCFFCY screen anytime by anyone.
- Please remember to provide youth exiting care their [Exit Packet](#), as required by policy [Sec4Ch5Sub9](#) of the Child Welfare Manual. The Exit Packet includes required and important materials, including information on the HCFFCY extended Medicaid coverage, as well as the Show Me Healthy Kids managed care program. It also provides Children's Division contact information so former foster care youth can report address updates and ask questions about their Medicaid coverage.

Please direct any Medicaid-related questions to our [CDMHNQuestions@dss.mo.gov](mailto:CDMHNQuestions@dss.mo.gov) address.

## **Program Specialist Contacts:**

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