

Date: June 23, 2025  
Issued by: Alternative Care Unit

PA25-AC-02

## **Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth Medicaid Coverage to Age 26 Reminders & FACES Enhancements**

### **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, on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, or at any time in the 30 days preceding their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 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 day after function closure. The coverage end date will show as the day before the youth's 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **FACES HCFFCY Screen – Required Action:**

- It is imperative that staff visit the HCFFCY screen the day after AC case closure to enter the youth's last known physical and mailing address, phone number, and email.

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

- FACES communicates the youth's address to MO HealthNet's database via the HCFFCY screen. MO HealthNet uses the address to assign the youth to their respective managed care region. 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) closes and managed care enrollment will end.
- Although the youth's medical and behavioral 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, months or years without accessing services because they believe they lost their Medicaid coverage.

- The Care Management service provided through the Show Me Healthy Kids plan is terminated when 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.

#### **Enhancements Made to the Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth Screen Include (see screenshot):**

1. The addition of a second address field to allow entry of a Physical Address vs. Mailing Address, when different.

For example, a former foster care youth may be appointed a legal guardian through the probate court. The appointed Public Administrator or other guardian may request to receive MO HealthNet-related correspondence and Medicaid cards on behalf of the former foster care youth. The Mailing Address information is transferred to the MO HealthNet Division's database and used for all mailings, while the youth's Physical Address determines their SMHK Care Management region.

If both addresses are the same, enter the Physical Address and then simply click on the "Copy Physical Address" button to populate the Mailing Address fields with the Physical Address information.

2. A designated email address field.

Please enter the youth's email address, if known.

Missouri Department of Social Services  
Children's Division  
Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth

Links: [FACES Home Page](#)

[General Functions Home Page](#)

Select Search Type (Please Select One):

☒ DCN Search

\* DCN:

☐ Name Search

Individual Information

DCN:

First Name:  Middle Name:  Last Name:  Suffix:

Date of Birth:  /  /

Health Care Code:

Mo HealthNet Begin Date:  /  /  Mo HealthNet End Date:  /  /

Comment:

Characters Remaining

Physical Address

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

City:

State:

Zip:  -

County:

Country:

Mailing Address

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

City:

State:

Zip:  -

County:

Country:

Phone:

Email:

User ID (ANSW):

Response time = 0.0:0.152

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CD/FCCM team members are encouraged to send Medicaid-related questions and issues to [CDMHNQuestions@dss.mo.gov](mailto:CDMHNQuestions@dss.mo.gov).

Program Specialist Contacts:

Jessie Alu

[Jessica.S.Alu@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Jessica.S.Alu@dss.mo.gov)

636-584-6332

Lori Masek

[Lori.L.Masek@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Lori.L.Masek@dss.mo.gov)

573-592-1007