

## **Former Foster Care Children's Program (FFCC) Desk Aid**

### **Background:**

Prior to The Affordable Care Act (ACA), extended FFCC benefits up to age 21 were afforded to individuals that aged out of Foster Care at age 18. With the implementation of ACA, individuals that aged out of Foster Care at age 18 or older are now eligible to receive FFCC benefits up to age 26. Per California state policy, this information can be found in:

- Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 14005.28(a)
- Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL): I 14-05

Counties may have a current mechanism in place to capture FFCC individuals as they age out of Foster Care, but in the event that an FFCC individual contacts the county as a new applicant, the guidelines below shall be followed:

### **FFCC Eligibility Requirements:**

FFCC Requirements: In order to be eligible for FFCC, an individual must have aged out of Foster Care at age 18 or older, in California or any other State. If the individual was receiving any of the following aid codes on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or later, he or she is eligible to FFCC with aid code 4M: 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 49, 4C,4H, 4L, 4N, or 5K. Former Foster Care status must be verified in order for the individual to be eligible to FFCC.

Counties shall process FFCC cases in SAWS, not CalHEERS, and complete a system override if necessary to approve aid-code 4M. Counties should check MEDS to ensure the transaction was approved appropriately and that eligibility is also posted for future month(s). If after the appropriate turnaround time the county discovers the aid-code did not post on MEDS, a manual online transaction shall be used to post the aid-code. In immediate need situations, counties shall complete an online MEDS transaction to activate aid code 4M, also ensuring that eligibility is posted for future months. Additional information regarding FFCC eligibility and system overrides/workarounds can be found in MEDIL I 14-11. Also check with SAWS consortias for any technical documents relating to workarounds that may be available.

Prior Foster Care status can be attested to at application and verified later. If an individual applies as an FFCC applicant, the county is to immediately determine the individual eligible for FFCC based on attestation. The county has 30-days after approval to verify prior Foster Care status from the county or state where the individual aged out of Foster Care. Counties are encouraged to verify prior Foster Care status in California in the CWS/CMS system, and counties should coordinate across programs to make this information available for eligibility staff.

### **California Residency:**

CA residency must be verified as a condition of FFCC. Counties are to use pre-existing regulations to verify CA residency for the FFCC population.

**Non-eligibility Criteria:**

Individuals eligible for FFCC are not required to submit any of the following:

- income or asset information
- citizenship or ID if previously verified
- Single Streamlined Application (SSApp)
- foster care case termination or emancipation paperwork

**Forms:**

FFCC individuals should apply using the MC 250A. If an applicant is identified as FFCC prior to completing an application, the MC 250A shall be used and the individual shall not be required to complete the SSApp. If an FFCC individual applies using a form other than the MC 250A, it shall be accepted and another application is not required. Counties are reminded to ask the applicant which state he or she received Foster Care in if an application other than the MC 250A is used.

**Outreach:**

Prior Foster Care recipients are being made aware that they qualify for the FFCC program. Numerous resources have been made available to this population in order to inform them of their FFCC eligibility. The attached "Did You Know" flyer is distributed to prior Foster Care recipients to inform them of FFCC, along with the following link from Children Now that has additional information:

<http://coveredtil26.childrennow.org/>

Counties are also reminded to ask new applicants if they aged out of Foster Care at age 18 or older in order to use the appropriate application form and expedite application processing.

**Applicants:**

In the event that a new applicant indicates that he or she is a prior Foster Care recipient and provides the following information, the county shall process the individual as an FFCC applicant:

- the attached "Did You Know?" flyer
- and/or a completed MC 250A

**Assistance:**

For assistance or questions regarding the FFCC program, review the above referenced MEDIL or contact your county FFCC liaison.

# Did You Know?

The Former Foster Care Children's Program which provides FREE Medi-Cal has been extended to age 26 for young adults who aged out of Foster Care at age 18 or older!

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If you think you may qualify for this program, please read on!

If you were in Foster Care at age 18 or older in California or any other state, you are likely to qualify for free Medi-Cal benefits up until your 26<sup>th</sup> birthday under the Former Foster Care Children's Program!

What do you need to do to apply? Simple! Follow these 4 easy steps to have your application for the Former Foster Care Children's Program processed:

1. Fill out the attached form.
2. Provide verification of California Residency - CA ID, CA Driver's License, vehicle registration, utility bill, etc. If you do not have any of these items don't worry! You can ask your local county office about what other documents you can provide.
3. Contact or visit your local county Human Services or Social Services office. If you don't know which office this is, you can use this link to help you locate it: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>
4. Present this flyer and completed form and indicate you want to apply for Medi-Cal and would like to be screened for the Former Foster Care Children's Program.

For more information on the Former Foster Care Children's Program you may visit: <http://coveredtil26.childrennow.org/>

## APPLICATION AND STATEMENT OF FACTS FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS OVER 18 AND UNDER 26 AND WHO WAS IN FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT ON HIS OR HER 18TH BIRTHDAY

- New application
- Redetermination
- Request for retroactive coverage for \_\_\_ months  
(Eligibility cannot be established prior to 10/01/00.)

COUNTY USE ONLY	
Case	name:
Case	number:
Date of discontinuance: _____	

Name		Date of birth (mm/dd/yy)		Gender	
				<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Telephone number (       )			Social security number		
Address (number, street)		City		State	ZIP code
Mailing address (if different) (number, street, P.O. Box)		City		State	ZIP code
Name of state where you were in foster care (e.g. California)					

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the answers I have given in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature	Date

### Instructions

If you are completing this application it is because you were in foster care when you turned 18. The Affordable Care Act allows you to receive Medi-Cal benefits at no share-of-cost until you reach the age of 26. Under this act, you are not required to show proof of income or resources (such as a car) in order to be eligible for Medi-Cal. You only have to have been in foster care when you turned 18 and have not yet reached 26.

Once you have completed this form, you will have to mail it to or drop it off at your local county social services department. Check your phone book for the nearest office.

If you move, you will still be eligible for Medi-Cal, but you will have to notify your county eligibility worker of your address change. If you move out of the county that you lived in when you applied, the county worker will have to change the information on your case so that you can continue to get medical coverage without difficulty. If you have any changes in your living arrangements, such as moving back in with your parents or getting married, or if you are pregnant, notify your eligibility worker immediately to report the change. These changes, however, will not affect your eligibility for this program.

If you move out of state, you may still be eligible for medical benefits in your new state, but you will have to apply for these benefits in the new state of residence.