

Medi-Cal Coverage Until 26: Healthcare for Former Foster Youth

Do I qualify for Medi-Cal Coverage?

- You automatically qualify for Medi-Cal while you are in foster care
- After leaving foster care, you continue to qualify up to age 26 if:
 1. You were in foster care in any state on your 18th birthday;
 2. You currently live in California; and
 3. You are under the age of 26.
- If 1 – 3 apply to you, you are eligible for Medi-Cal regardless of what type of placement you lived in when turning 18 or how much money you earn now.
- Even if you are on probation or were on probation, you still qualify for Medi-Cal if you were in foster care on your 18th birthday.

What does Medi-Cal cover?

- General medical care
- Specialty medical care
- Mental health services
- Eye exams
- Dental care
- Substance abuse treatment

How do I sign up for Medi-Cal coverage?

- If you already have Medi-Cal coverage and are leaving foster care, you should continue to have Medi-Cal without any break in coverage and without having to fill out a new application.
- If you do not already have Medi-Cal coverage, you can apply through the county social services department using a shorter one page Medi-Cal application called an **MC 250A**.

Remember, this form is different from an MC 250, which is used for children living apart from their parents. You do not have to answer any income questions or fill out the entire Medi-Cal application.

- **If you are in LA County:** call Dorian Madrid at (626) 927-2690
- **If you are in San Bernardino County:** call Tina Delair at (909) 388-1970 or email your completed MC 250A form to tjones-delair@hss.sbcounty.gov

Do I have to bring proof that I was in foster care at age 18 when I go to sign up?

- NO, but you must answer "YES" when asked if you were in foster care at age 18. As long as you tell them that you were in foster care at age 18, you will automatically be enrolled in Medi-Cal and will get a "4M" aid code so that you do not have to re-enroll every year.
- You should be able to receive free health care services while the county makes sure that you were in foster care at age 18 in any state within the US.

Do my children qualify for Medi-Cal because I am a former foster youth?

- No. Your children do not automatically qualify for Medi-Cal coverage simply because you do as a former foster youth.
- However, your children may qualify for Medi-Cal coverage for other reasons such as your income or because of a disability. When signing up for Medi-Cal coverage, also ask about and apply for health insurance for your children.
- You do not have to answer questions about your income to get Medi-Cal for yourself because you automatically qualify for Medi-Cal benefits if you were in foster care on your 18th birthday. However, if you are applying for your children's healthcare coverage, you should answer income questions so they can see whether your children qualify for healthcare based on your family's income.