



**IF YOU ARE AGE 18, 19, OR 20 YEARS OLD AND LEAVE FOSTER CARE VOLUNTARILY, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONTINUOUS MEDICAID COVERAGE UNTIL YOU REACH 21!**

## **MEDICAID FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER CARE**

### **It's the Law**

Senate Bill 51 was passed and signed into law, effective September 1, 2005. This law requires the state to provide uninterrupted Medicaid coverage to young people who age out of foster care at age 18 through the month of their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

### **Certification Process**

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is responsible for initially certifying young people who are eligible for Transitional Medicaid coverage as they age out of *Texas* foster care, which provides them with uninterrupted Medicaid coverage.

If you are age 18, 19, or 20 and leave *Texas* foster care voluntarily, your caseworker must notify the eligibility specialist within **three days** after you leave care. The eligibility specialist will then determine if you meet the Transitional Medicaid eligibility requirements based on the eligibility list, below. You are initially certified for Transitional Medicaid when the foster care eligibility specialist ends your foster care eligibility and opens your Medicaid eligibility.

If you are age 18, 19, or 20 and leave another state's foster care voluntarily, you may also be eligible for Transitional Medicaid, provided you are a current resident in Texas and meet all other requirements (see contact information, below).

### **Eligibility Requirements**

You are eligible for continuous Medicaid coverage through the month of your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday if:

- You have aged out of any state's foster care at age 18 or older
- You are a current Texas resident between 18 and 21 years of age
- You are a U.S. citizen, a legal permanent resident, or other qualified alien
- You have no private comprehensive medical insurance through a family member or work, or other Medicaid coverage through SSI, TANF, or another HHSC (formerly the Department of Human Services, or DHS) Medicaid program
- Your total resources are valued at less than \$10,000
- Your income is below 400 percent of the current federal poverty level for one person, which is \$3104 per month for 2005. To obtain federal poverty levels, go to [www.aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/](http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/)

The following items are not considered income or resources:

- The value of one vehicle
- Any financial benefit used for the purpose of educational or vocational training, such as scholarships and student loans or grants
- Any financial benefit used for the purpose of housing
- Any grants or subsidies obtained as a result of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999

### **Changes in Eligibility**

You must continue to meet the eligibility requirements in order for coverage to continue. You will receive a renewal application before the end of your 12-month eligibility period until you reach age 21. You must report all changes that might affect your eligibility. And you will be responsible for completing the renewal application and returning it by mail. This will help to ensure you receive your Medicaid card.

### **Contact Information**

Call Centralized Benefits Services and ask to speak to someone about Medicaid for young people transitioning from foster care.

Toll Free [1-800-248-1078](tel:1-800-248-1078), ext. 8126, [Jordyn Young](mailto:Jordyn.Young@hhsc.texas.gov)

Toll Free Fax: [1-800-318-2052](tel:1-800-318-2052)

Austin Fax: (512) 908-9525 or (512) 908-9515

You may call your local HHSC office for assistance.

You may also call your regional Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) staff or CPS worker.