

Former Foster Care Youth Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I get Medi-Cal coverage as a former foster youth?

You can apply for Medi-Cal by contacting your local county social services office and telling them that you were in foster care. You can call, or mail in a shortened application, or go in-person to the local county social services office. The county will decide if you are eligible for the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth based on a few simple questions. Eligible former foster youth are not required to provide any proof of income to get Medi-Cal. You must live in California to receive Medi-Cal. Former foster youth can also apply by submitting a simple form called the Application for Medi-Cal for Former Foster Care Children (MC 250A) to their local county social services office. This form is available online at:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/forms/Pages/MCEDFormsMC200.aspx>

To find the telephone number and location of your nearest county social services office, go to <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>

or to obtain additional help, go to

http://www.childrenow.org/uploads/documents/Coveredtil26_CountyContactList.pdf

2. Do I need proof that I was in foster care?

No, you are not required to provide proof of being in foster care when you apply for Medi-Cal. It would be helpful to provide information about the county, state or tribe where you were in foster care. Also please provide any paperwork, if you have any, regarding your foster care case to move the case along faster.

3. I was in foster care in California. I left the State when I turned 18. I am now living in California again. Can I get Medi-Cal again?

Yes, if you were in foster care at any age in any state or tribe and are under age 26, you may qualify for free Medi-Cal and get Medi-Cal in a program for former foster youth.

4. I used to live in another state, and I was in foster care in that state or a tribe in that state. Can I get Medi-Cal in California?

If you were in foster care on your 18th, 19th, 20th, or 21st birthday in another state or tribe and you are now under age 26, you may qualify for the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth. You will receive Medi-Cal benefits while the county verifies your former foster care status. You may continue to receive Medi-Cal up to 26. It would be helpful to give the county as much information as you can about your former foster care case.

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5. Do I need to complete the regular Medi-Cal application?

No, you do not need to complete the full application. Ask for the shortened application form for former foster youth. It is called the MC 250A. You can also download a copy of the form at:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/forms/Pages/MCEDFormsMC200.aspx>

6. Can I still get Medi-Cal if I already have insurance through my job?

Yes, you can have Medi-Cal and health insurance through a job at the same time. Medi-Cal can be used to cover medical costs that your other health insurance does not cover.

7. Can I qualify for the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth if I have a job?

Yes, if you left foster care when you were 18, 19, 20, or 21 and are still under age 26, you may be eligible to receive Medi-Cal until your 26th birthday. Your income and resources do not matter for this program.

8. What happens when I reach the maximum age for the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth?

Before your Medi-Cal program ends, the county will check to see if you can still qualify for Medi-Cal under a different program. If you are eligible for another program, the county will put you in that program after it looks at any information needed to decide if you qualify for that program.

There are different ways to qualify for Medi-Cal. If the county cannot determine whether you will stay eligible for Medi-Cal with the information they have, the county may send you paperwork or ask you for additional information to decide if you qualify for another program. You may be asked to give income and tax information when this program ends, or other information that will help the county decide if you can keep your Medi-Cal or can get other financial help to buy low-cost health insurance through Covered California. If the county decides that you are no longer eligible for Medi-Cal, you will get a Notice of Action and information about how to appeal if you disagree with the decision.

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9. I went to the emergency room or other place for medical treatment. They told me they will be sending me a bill. What do I do now?

If you are not on Medi-Cal, you or someone on your behalf should contact your county social services office and tell them that you want to enroll in the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth and need “retroactive coverage” to pay for medical services you received. Make sure to tell the county that you are a former foster youth and ask for Form MC 250A. If you need to pay for medical services you received anytime during the three months before you applied for Medi-Cal, make sure you check the box at the top of the MC 250A asking for “retroactive coverage.”

10. Is there a telephone number I can call to get more information?

Yes, you can call the numbers listed below.

- Medi-Cal Helpline-1-800-541-5555
- Call your local county social services office. To find out the telephone number to the nearest county office, go to <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>

11. Where can I find information about Medi-Cal and other benefits programs?

You can find information about Medi-Cal online at <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/Medi-CalFAQ2014.aspx> or to obtain additional helpful information, go to <http://www.coveredtil26.com>

You can find information other benefits programs at <http://www.benefitscal.org> This site is an online resource for California public benefits and connects you to applications for other programs such as County Medical Services Program, CalFresh (formerly known as Food Stamps) and CalWORKS (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids).