

BROADCAST DMAS-9

DATE: October 12, 2016

TO: Local directors and Medicaid staff

FROM: Cindy Olson, Eligibility Manager, Department of Medical Assistance Services

SUBJECT: Former Foster Care Child Under Age 26 Covered Group Alert

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The purpose of this broadcast is to alert Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) staff to issues being experienced by some former foster care youth regarding their Medicaid coverage. These issues include former foster care youth having Medicaid coverage cancelled, having coverage denied due to excess income and not being allowed to submit an application.

Individuals who were formerly in Title IV-E or non-IV-E foster care or the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program (URM) are eligible for Medicaid until the age of 26 years when the individual:

- was in the custody of a local department of social services or in the URM program in Virginia or another state, and receiving Medicaid until his discharge from foster care/URM upon turning 18 years or older, and
- is not eligible for Medicaid in another mandatory Medicaid covered group (LIFC parent, Pregnant Woman, Child Under age 19 or SSI).

A child age 18 and over who is in an Independent Living arrangement or in the Fostering Futures Program with a local department of social services may also be eligible in this covered group.

The policy and procedures for the Former Foster Care Child Under Age 26 covered group (Aid Category 070) is contained in M0330.109 of the Medical Assistance Eligibility Manual. The individual must meet all of the Medicaid nonfinancial eligibility requirements, including U.S. citizenship or the full-benefit alien status requirement applicable to individuals over age 19; however, **there is no resource or income test** for these individuals.

Accept the individual's declaration of enrollment in foster care or the URM Program and enrollment in Medicaid at the time turned at least 18. If Medicaid coverage of a former foster care child was previously discontinued when the child turned 18, he may reapply for coverage and be eligible if he meets the requirements of this covered group.

Individuals in this covered group receive full Medicaid coverage, including long-term care (LTC) services. Do not move enrollees in this covered group who need LTC to the 300% of SSI covered group.

Supervisors are asked to please review the information above with their staff to ensure that there are no unnecessary interruptions to coverage for former foster care/URM youth.

Please direct any comments or questions regarding information in this broadcast to Susan Hart.