

### FAQs for young adults leaving foster care after Jan 1, 2014

#### ▶ Do I Qualify for the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth?

If you were in foster care in ANY state on your 18th birthday or later, live in California now, and are younger than 26, you qualify for the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth. Your income does not matter.



#### ▶ I am in foster care right now. Do I need to reapply for Medi-Cal when I leave foster care?

NO. If you leave foster care at age 18 or older after January 1, 2014, you do not need to reapply for Medi-Cal. You will be automatically moved into the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth when you leave care and will stay covered until 26.

If you left foster care before January 1, 2014, and do not have Medi-Cal right now, you can sign up using a simple, one-page application for former foster youth (called the MC 250A). Most counties have a specific phone number, office, or staff to help former foster youth. For more information, visit [coveredtil26.childrennow.org/how-to-sign-up](http://coveredtil26.childrennow.org/how-to-sign-up)



#### ▶ I just left foster care and want to make sure I am now in the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth. What do I do?

Contact your Medi-Cal worker or county social service office and ask if you are in the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth. Former foster youth should be assigned the '4M' aid code. If you are not in the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth, you can ask the county to move you into this program.



#### ▶ Will I need a new Medi-Cal card when I leave foster care?

NO. You can continue to use the same Medi-Cal card (called a Benefits Identification Card or BIC) that you had when you were in foster care. If you can't find your card, you can ask the county to give you a new one.

#### ▶ If I move to a new county, do I need to reapply for Medi-Cal?

NO, you do not need to reapply. But tell your Medi-Cal worker when you move. Your worker will update your address to make sure you do not have any problems seeing a doctor in your new county.



#### ▶ What's covered?

Medical care, vision exams, dental care, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services. Former foster youth under 21 qualify for some extra benefits such as braces and glasses.

As a former foster youth, you can go to any doctor, therapist, hospital, or dentist that takes Medi-Cal.



**Have more questions?** Talk to your social worker or go to [www.coveredtil26.org](http://www.coveredtil26.org) for more information.