

Health Care Finance and Administration	Section: Categories of Eligibility
Policy Manual Number: 015.005	Chapter: Former Foster Care Children up to Age 26

FORMER FOSTER CARE CHILDREN UP TO AGE 26

Legal Authority: 42 USC 1396(a)(10)(i)(IX); 42 CFR 435.406

1. Policy Statement

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 requires states to provide Medicaid benefits to individuals under the age of 26 who were previously in foster care. Individuals under age 26 are eligible to receive TennCare Medicaid if they were under the responsibility of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) and enrolled in TennCare Medicaid upon turning age 18.

Individuals under age 26 who were in foster care and receiving Medicaid benefits in another state upon turning 18, and who are now applying for TennCare Medicaid are not eligible in this category. The individual must have been under the responsibility of DCS and enrolled in TennCare Medicaid to be eligible as a former foster care child.

2. Enrollment Procedure

If an individual had TennCare Medicaid when he or she aged out of DCS custody, he or she will be considered for eligibility in this category. An individual is able to maintain eligibility in this category up to age 26 as long as the individual is a Tennessee resident and can provide verification of Tennessee residency at each redetermination period.

3. Non-Financial Eligibility Requirements

- a. **Age:** An individual eligible in this category may maintain eligibility up to age 26.
- b. **Citizenship:** An individual must be a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National or eligible non-citizen. An individual is not required to provide documentary evidence of citizenship or national status if he or she was assisted under Title IV-B or received foster care maintenance or adoption assistance payments under Title IV-E.
- c. **Enumeration:** An individual must possess and provide a valid Social Security Number, unless he or she meets an exception.
- d. **Residency:** An individual must be a resident of the state of Tennessee.
- e. **Former Foster Care Recipient:** An individual must have been in DCS custody and received TennCare Medicaid until aging out at age 18.

4. Financial Eligibility Requirements

There are no financial eligibility requirements for this category.

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