

# Foster Youth May *Automatically* Get

## **FREE Health Care until age 26!**

### **Make Sure Their Medi-Cal Coverage is Extended!**

#### **SOCIAL WORKERS, PROBATION OFFICERS, FOSTER PARENTS AND COURT STAFF:**

Young adults who were in foster care on their 18th birthday or later may qualify for Medi-Cal coverage until age 26, and their income does not matter. Below are steps you should take to make sure youth in foster care at age 18 or older are automatically enrolled in the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth and have the information they need to know before they exit foster care.

#### **Medi-Cal Extension**

Youth exiting foster care do not need to reapply for Medi-Cal. They should be automatically moved into the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth, assigned the "4M" aid code, and stay covered until 26.

#### **Steps a social worker or probation officer should take BEFORE a youth exits foster care:**

- ✓ Check with the Medi-Cal eligibility worker to ensure the foster youth's Medi-Cal coverage is active while still in foster care.
- ✓ Provide foster youth with information about their ongoing eligibility for Medi-Cal until age 26 and the importance of notifying Medi-Cal if they move.
- ✓ Confirm the foster youth has a Medi-Cal card (also called a Benefits Identification Card or BIC) and contact information for their Medi-Cal eligibility worker.
- ✓ Work with Medi-Cal eligibility to ensure the foster youth is automatically moved into the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth and assigned the "4M" aid code in preparation for or immediately upon exit from foster care.

#### **Steps a social worker or probation officer should take AFTER case closure if not completed beforehand:**

- ✓ Contact Medi-Cal eligibility to confirm enrollment in "4M" was successfully completed.
- ✓ Provide the youth with confirmation that they have been enrolled in the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth until age 26.

**PRACTICE TIP:** Youth who exited foster care before January 1, 2014, or who exited foster care in another state can sign up for the Medi-Cal program for former foster youth using a simple one page form: (MC 250A).

**For more information, visit [coveredtil26.childrennow.org](http://coveredtil26.childrennow.org) or to contact the Medi-Cal for former foster youth liaison for your county, visit:**

**[http://www.childrennow.org/uploads/documents/Coveredtil26\\_CountyContactList.pdf](http://www.childrennow.org/uploads/documents/Coveredtil26_CountyContactList.pdf)**