



TOBY DOUGLAS
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

June 28, 2013

Medi-Cal Eligibility Information Letter No.: 13-07

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAMS SPECIALIST/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Extension of Former Foster Care Children's (FFCC) Program

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties with the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) instructions on implementing the provisions of Assembly Trailer Bill (AB) 82.

BACKGROUND:

Existing law requires that DHCS extend coverage up to age 21 for individuals who were under the responsibility of the State on their 18th birthday and in receipt of Foster Care services under aid codes 40, 42, 4C, or 5K and are losing eligibility due to aging out of Foster Care. This extended coverage is known as the FFCC program and beneficiaries in receipt of it are placed into aid code 4M. This extended coverage is also available to former foster children who turned 18 while in foster care in another state and have subsequently moved to California.

The Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) extends FFCC coverage up to age 26, effective January 1, 2014. AB 82 allows for partial early implementation of the FFCC extension in California for current beneficiaries beyond age 21, for up to an additional six months on aid code 4M, who will lose FFCC eligibility between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.

The rationale for the extension of benefits for those former foster youth care youth turning age 21 between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013, is to maintain coverage for approximately 1,000 FFCC beneficiaries that are at risk of losing benefits in the six month period prior to ACA implementation.

COUNTY INSTRUCTIONS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

Effective immediately, counties are to continue eligibility for any FFCC beneficiaries receiving aid code 4M who would otherwise lose FFCC eligibility between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013, due to attaining age 21. The Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) is being programmed to extend aid code 4M up to age 26 and is scheduled to be programmed in MEDS on July 8, 2013.

Until the Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (SAWS) are programmed to accommodate this change, county staff must manually override the SAWS systems to issue aid code 4M to the existing beneficiaries as to comply with AB 82. Any discontinuances falling into the AB 82 extension that have already occurred shall be rescinded by counties immediately.

Counties are to review caseloads for any FFCC beneficiaries on aid code 4M that will be discontinued effective July 1, 2013, and rescind them immediately. Counties are also to review these cases for any Notices of Action (NOAs) that were sent to beneficiaries and send new NOAs informing the beneficiaries that their benefits will continue.

The early implementation of the FFCC extension under AB 82 applies only to FFCC beneficiaries on aid code 4M losing eligibility between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013, due to turning 21. The extension of FFCC does not apply to beneficiaries who already attained age 21 and were discontinued prior to July 1, 2013. Counties are not to enroll any new applicants in aid code 4M between the ages of 21 and 25 years during the period of July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.

Example 1: A FFCC beneficiary on 4M who turned 21 on June 6th that would have lost eligibility effective July 1, 2013, is eligible for the FFCC extension under AB 82 because his or her discontinuance from the program would have taken effect on July 1, 2013.

Example 2: A former FFCC beneficiary who received aid code 4M and turned 21 on February 4th that was discontinued effective March 1, 2013, applies for Medi-Cal on July 10th. This applicant is not eligible for the FFCC extension under AB 82 as he or she previously lost FFCC eligibility prior to July 1, 2013. The county shall evaluate the applicant for other Medi-Cal linkage to determine whether or not other program eligibility exists.

COUNTY INSTRUCTIONS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014:

Effective January 1, 2014 the full FFCC extension under the ACA will be implemented and counties shall enroll any new applicants who are between the ages of 18 and up to age 26 that have evidence of previous foster care benefits in any state, regardless of when they were previously terminated into FFCC with aid code 4M. Those applicants who were previously enrolled in aid codes 40, 42, 4C, 5K, or 4M are all eligible under the ACA FFCC extension with aid code 4M up to the age of 26. Applicants and beneficiaries will remain eligible with aid code 4M up through the month in which they attain age 26.

RETROACTIVE FFCC COVERAGE:

Retroactive coverage for any prior FFCC beneficiaries who lost eligibility to aid code 4M prior to July 1, 2013, does not start until January 1, 2014. Use the chart below to determine what month(s) an applicant is eligible for retroactive coverage in 2014:

| Application Month | Eligible Retro Month(s) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| January | N/A |
| February | January |
| March | January, February |
| April | January, February, March |

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS:

For other information and FFCC processing instructions, refer to All County Welfare Directors Letters (ACWDLs) 00-41, 00-61, and 01-41. The eligibility information in these ACWDLs, other than the special extensions, should continue to be followed when processing FFCC eligibility.

If you have any questions, or if you would like additional information, please contact Mr. Bernard Finneran at (916) 327-0420 by phone or by email at Bernard.Finneran@dhcs.ca.gov

Original Signed By

Tara Naisbitt, Chief
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