Welcome to the webinar:

Extending Medicaid Eligibility to Former Foster Care Youth: Outreach and Engagement

The program will begin shortly.
Extending Medicaid Eligibility to Former Foster Care Youth

November 20, 2013

Support From Casey Family Programs
Affordable Care Act (ACA) – Medicaid to 26

Background:

The ACA includes a provision that allows young adults to remain on their parent’s health insurance until age 26.

Foster care youth who age out of the child welfare system may remain on Medicaid until age 26; regardless of income.
Eligibility

A youth must meet all of the following criteria:

- The final discharged youth must have been in the custody of a Commissioner of a local department of social services or the Commissioner of the Office of Children and Family Services on their 18th birthday; **AND**
- The youth must have been in receipt of Medicaid on their 18th birthday or the day of their final discharge.

This provision applies to any youth who meets this criteria and was discharged after January 1, 2007.
Why this provision is important
Access to health and behavioral health services is critical for former foster care youth to transition to adulthood.

Foster Care youth face a myriad of health (both physical and behavioral) risks.

High-quality services are essential.
What we can do

- Implement ACA provision – afford youth in foster care seamless health coverage until 26.

- Educate communities about long-term and lingering risks associated with trauma so young adults can receive needed services.

- Engage in outreach efforts to educate young adults who left the child welfare system about this provision.
Resources

- Resources at [www.scaany.org](http://www.scaany.org)
- First webinar and slides
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Flyer on provision for your use
- Sample newsletter
Outreach and Engagement
Objectives of today’s webinar

- Best practices for effective outreach and engagement including:
  - How to reach eligible youth; including use of social media
  - Who are effective messengers
  - What are effective messages

Last webinar is posted to website www.
Our presenters

- Erica Leveillee
  Training Program Coordinator
  Rockefeller College, University at Albany

- Shanice
  Youth Ambassador

- Brandon
  Youth Ambassador

- Paul Griffin
  Founder and President
  Possibility Project NYC
Our mission is to enhance and advance the lives of today's and tomorrow's foster youth by supporting our sense of self and responsibility. To do this, we pledge to educate everyone involved in the various systems Youth In Progress members represent, to the realities of this experience.

Youth are leading the effort to educate current and former foster youth about the ACA.
Why is insurance important for youth in care to have?

- Preventive wellness and ongoing care
- Lower risk of disease, illness, etc.
Who do we need to tell about the ACA?

- Current and former foster youth, guardians and caregivers, workers.

**TIPS to Educate:**

- Workshops/Classes about ACA for foster parents, workers, caregivers
- These should highlight cost-comparison, statistics, and on-going care vs. emergencies
My Experience

#1 TIP:
Help young girls understand and take care of their female health needs

- Healthy=Better Quality of Life
- Better your chances to reach your goals
Brandon
Sophomore at Hudson Valley Community College

- Why is Medicaid to 26 important for youth to have?

- Who needs to know about ACA the most?

- What you can do to help.
My Experience
Paul Griffin, The Possibility Project

Brings teenagers together to transform the negative forces in their lives and communities into positive action.

Through a 10-month creative process led by them, youth learn to build relationships across differences, resolve the conflicts they face, engage in community action, and lead.

They do this together by writing and performing an original musical based on the stories of their lives and leading community action projects focused on issues they care about.

99% of youth have graduated from high school and 99% have gone on to college; 90% of foster care youth have stayed in school, re-enrolled in school, graduated or completed their GED.
Strategies

- Go where youth are
- Building & sustaining relationships
- Youth-to-Youth
- Social media
Youth-to-Youth

- The best way to reach youth
- “Trust” – Adults are suspect
- “Buzz”- The power of word-of-mouth
- Your youth know what works
Social Media

- “Friends” and “Followers” = connection
- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vine, Tumblr
- Audience (relationships) are built over time
- It’s not free and it’s not automatic
- Must be visual – “squares”
- Must be dynamic and focused on audience
Messaging Content

- Relevant to young adults (your youth know)
- Make it practical
- Use stories, Give examples
- “Good for you” doesn’t work
- Solves problems
Reminders...

- There’s no magic bullet
- Three tries before success
- Every connection is a door to another
- Your youth are key
Next Steps
Next Steps

✔ Help us develop a FAQ sheet to provide you with further information and ideas on implementation. Tell us what you want to know.

✔ Send your questions to info@scaany.org.

✔ Check our website often for additional resources and information on our next webinar.

www.scaany.org