

New Health Insurance Options for Former Foster Care Youth

One of the most popular benefits of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) allows young adults to stay on their parent's health insurance until age 26. Youth in foster care don't have the opportunity for that supported, consistent access to health insurance when they leave the system. To rectify this disparity, the ACA contains a provision that allows young adults who transitioned out of foster care at age 18 or older and were on Medicaid while in foster care to enroll in Medicaid and stay enrolled until they turn 26. These young adults are eligible for Medicaid regardless of their income up until age 26.

Youth who are eligible for this option should contact their local department of social service district to enroll in Medicaid, this provision goes into effect January 1, 2014.

For former foster care youth who are too old for this provision or did not age out of foster care have other health insurance options available through the [New York State of Health: New York's Official Health Insurance Marketplace](#). [Here](#) is a link to the list of community partners around the state that will assist people to enroll in coverage.

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