

Adoption and Medical Assistance: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



What kind of Medical Assistance will my child have?

Adoption Assistance recipients receive Title XIX (19) Medicaid (often referred to as FSTMA or just MA) through ForwardHealth. This Medicaid has the same coverage as the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan but without copays. If the child was previously in foster care, this is the same coverage they had prior to adoption.

- To browse a general list of services covered by Title XIX Medicaid, visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/services.htm>
- To explore providers in your area who take Title XIX Medicaid, visit the ForwardHealth Provider Directory: <https://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/WIPortal/Subsystem/Public/DirectorySearch.aspx>
- To ask whether a specific service can be covered, call ForwardHealth Member Services: 1 (800) 947-3544

How long will my child be covered?

Your child will be covered by Title XIX Medicaid while they remain eligible for Adoption Assistance, **plus a 3- to 12-month grace period**. The length of this grace period differs based on the date of your child's last Medicaid renewal. Typically, this means that children are covered until at least three months after their eighteenth birthday or three months after their high school graduation—whichever comes later. In less common situations, children may continue to be eligible until the month of their 21st birthday.

Four to six months before your child's 18th birthday, you should receive a letter from the Department of Children and Families to collect information about your child's anticipated high school graduation date and other information that will allow us to determine how long your child will be eligible for both Adoption Assistance. Once a determination has been made regarding the end date of your child's Adoption Assistance, you may call 1 (866) 666-5532, option 3, or send an email to DCFMedicaid@wisconsin.gov to determine the exact end date of your child's Medicaid coverage.

Can my child be added to a private insurance plan?

Yes. If you add your child to your private insurance, the private insurance will be billed as the primary insurance for any service it covers. The Title XIX Medicaid will be billed as secondary insurance for anything not covered by the private insurance but covered by Title XIX Medicaid.

When you initially add your child to your private insurance, be sure to notify your private insurance company that the child is also enrolled in Title XIX Medicaid or FSTMA. They will coordinate billing with ForwardHealth.

If you later remove or change your child's private insurance coverage, we recommend calling ForwardHealth Member Services at 1 (800) 947-3544 to ensure they do not continue attempting to bill the old private insurance.

Can I opt out of Title XIX Medicaid for my child?

Yes. Submit a request to the Adoption Assistance Program to have your child unenrolled from Title XIX Medicaid. This can be done via email (DCFAdoptionAssistance@wisconsin.gov), fax (806-422-7170), or in the form of a letter mailed to:

DCF / DSP / BPOHC
Adoption Assistance Program
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916

You can re-enroll your child in Title XIX Medicaid at any time while they remain eligible for Adoption Assistance by calling the Adoption Assistance Program at 1 (866) 666-5532, option 3.

What do I do if I haven't received my child's new birth certificate?

The Department of Health Services (DHS) outlines the process to obtain an amended birth certificate post-adoption here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/vitalrecords/adoptions.htm>. For more information, contact the DHS Vital Records program at dhsvitalrecords@dghs.wisconsin.gov or by calling 1 (608) 266-1373.

What happens if we move out of Wisconsin?

In nearly all cases, your child's Title XIX Medicaid can be transferred to the state you are moving to. Prior to moving or as soon as possible after moving, notify the Adoption Assistance Program at 1 (866) 666-5532, option 3, of the date of the move and your address in the new state. A referral will be sent to the new state to have your child enrolled in Medicaid there.

Some states take several weeks to enroll a child who has moved from another state. It is important that you notify the Wisconsin Adoption Assistance Program *as soon as possible* to avoid gaps in coverage for your child. We also recommend stocking up on at least one month's worth of any necessary prescriptions prior to leaving Wisconsin.

If you are considering moving to Illinois, Hawaii, Nevada, or New Mexico and your child's access to Title XIX Medicaid will impact your decision to move, call 1 (866) 666-5532, option 3, to find out whether your child will be able to receive Medicaid in these states. These 4 states have additional restrictions on Title XIX Medicaid access for children from other states, so your child may or may not be eligible.

How do I get health insurance for my child when they lose eligibility for Title XIX Medicaid?

If you are covered by insurance and can add your child to your plan, they can remain on your insurance until age 26. If your child is continuing education after high school, they may also be able to access student health insurance through their college or university.

If your child has a disability that will prevent them from working as an adult, consider applying for Supplemental Security Income and insurance. The Social Security Administration has a tool to walk through eligibility options for federal income and insurance programs: <https://ssabest.benefits.gov/benefit-finder>.

To enroll in income-restricted Wisconsin state insurance (BadgerCare), apply online at ACCESS Wisconsin: <https://access.wisconsin.gov>. Your adult child may be part of a family plan or enroll as a single adult.

Explore other affordable healthcare options and learn about the next open enrollment period on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/getcovered>.

Who do I contact if...?

There's an issue with my insurance billing.	ForwardHealth Member Services 1 (800) 947-3544
My child is also covered by private insurance, and there is an issue with billing.	
I want to know if a specific service can be covered.	
I need to report that my address has changed.*	Department of Children and Families Adoption Assistance Program 1 (866) 666-5532, option 3
I need to change or correct a name, date of birth, or social security number.	
I need a new copy of the Medicaid card.	
I need to add or remove a parent from my child's ForwardHealth record.	
My child's pre-adoptive name is listed on the ForwardHealth record.	
My child's medical providers won't speak to me because I am not listed on the ForwardHealth record.	
My child's medical providers are saying that my child does not have active coverage.	
I have another question not covered here.	

* As outlined in the Adoption Assistance Agreement, you **must** report any change in address (within Wisconsin or to/from another state) to the Adoption Assistance Program to ensure continuity of services.

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call the Division of Safety and Permanence at (608) 266-8787. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711 to contact the department.