

To: DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove 
Administrator

Re: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) Provision for Former Foster Care Youth Enrollment in BadgerCare Plus Clarification

PURPOSE

This memo explains expanded Badger Care Plus (BC+) under the Affordable Care Act provision for former foster care youth. It also clarifies the ways in which former foster care youth may enroll in BC+.

BACKGROUND

As stated in DCFS Memo Series 2008 -03, BadgerCare Plus (BC+) outlined a new provision for former foster care youth (formerly called Youth Exiting Out of Home Care, YEOHC) who were placed in Foster Care, Subsidized Guardianship, or court-ordered Kinship Care on their 18th birthday to qualify for a special status under BC+ when they leave out of home care, as allowed by the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 if all of the following conditions were met:

1. The youth was receiving foster care (either IV-E or non IV-E), subsidized guardianship, or court ordered Kinship Care on the date that s/he turned 18. It does not matter what state s/he was residing in when s/he turned 18.
2. The youth is under age 21.
3. The youth meets the following BC+ eligibility criteria:
 - a. No longer receiving foster care benefits (which includes subsidized guardianships and court-ordered kinship), but was receiving the benefits on his/her 18th birthday. Verification of the placement status on his/her 18th birthday is required.
 - b. Provides a Social Security Number or cooperates in applying for one.
 - c. Is a U.S. Citizen, or National, or is a qualifying immigrant.
 - d. If requested by the income maintenance agency, provide verification of U.S. citizenship and identity or qualifying immigration status immigration status or makes a good faith effort to obtain it.
 - e. Cooperates with child support enforcement agencies in obtaining medical support (if a parent).
 - f. Cooperates with third party liability requirements
 - g. Physically resides in Wisconsin and intends to reside in the state.
 - h. Is not an inmate.

There is no income or resource test for these youths while they are eligible under this provision. In addition, they are not subject to the BC+ insurance access or coverage policy and they are not required to pay any premiums for themselves. Regardless of income, they are eligible for the BC+ Standard Plan until the end of the month in which they turn 21 or they are otherwise ineligible, whichever is sooner.

A 12 month recertification renewal is required to continue eligibility.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Affordable Care Act (ACA) provision for Former Foster Care Youth (FFCY):

Effective January 2014 Medicaid (MA) coverage for youth who were in foster care at age 18 may now receive full Medicaid benefits up to their 26th birthday. Youth who lost BC+ coverage as a YEOHC when they turned 21 in the past several years but are not yet age 26 are also covered under this provision. While there is no premium required for BC+ under the FFCY provision, a nominal copayment of \$1.00-\$3.00 may be required for some services.

As before, there is no income or resource test for these youths while they are eligible under this provision. In addition, they are not subject to the BC+ insurance access or coverage policy and they are not required to pay any premiums for themselves. Regardless of income, they are now eligible for the BC+ Standard Plan until the end of the month in which they turn 26 or they are otherwise ineligible, whichever is sooner.

Eligibility requirements remain the same.

Enrollment Process

Child welfare and local Income Maintenance (IM) agencies must develop a procedure to ensure that whenever a youth is losing Foster Care MA eligibility, a separate re-determination is completed by the IM agency before the Foster Care MA is terminated. Child Welfare agencies are to extend MA eligibility, using the Foster Care medical status code, until a re-determination of MA eligibility is done by the IM agency. A formal communication process must be established to assure IM agencies are made aware of all children leaving out-of-home care, and provided with information necessary to re-determine eligibility.

The attached Form F-10184_Badgercare Plus Former Foster Care Youth has been developed to assist in that communication. The following application options are available for any FFCY who is applying for BC+.

1. ACCESS online application: <https://access.wisconsin.gov/>,
2. Face-to-Face interview at the local county/tribal office,
3. Mail-In application (see attachment), or
4. Telephone interview through consortia call-in number.

Local CW agencies should do all they can to disseminate information in their communities and partner agencies regarding the ACA provision for FFCY and support former foster youth under the age of 26 to access health care under this provision. Health care facilities, education programs and homeless shelters are some of the local service providers that may have interactions with FFCY youth.

Youth who move to Wisconsin from another state are also categorically eligible for BC+ for former foster care youth providing they meet the same eligibility requirements. CW agencies should assist these youth in enrolling when needed.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: DCF/DSP/OYS
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916
Phone: 608-267-7287

MEMO WEB SITE: <http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Application:

BadgerCare Plus <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/F1/F10182.pdf>

Spanish: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/F1/F10182S.pdf>

Hmong: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/F1/F10182H.pdf>

BC+ YEOHC Communication Form: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/F1/F10184.doc>

Directory of Income Maintenance (IM) Agencies and Consortia:
<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/imagency/index.htm>