

DATE: December 16, 2013 – **REVISED 05/30/2014** –

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM 13-12-03

SUBJECT: Former Foster Care Medical Assistance (MA) Eligibility Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: Tom Strickler
Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) of the new Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)-related MA eligibility group, PC40, under the provisions of the ACA for individuals who were former foster care recipients in Pennsylvania.

BACKGROUND

The ACA requires MA coverage for former foster care recipients who are under age 26 and who were in foster care while receiving MA at any time on or after their 18th birthday.

DISCUSSION

Effective January 1, 2014, individuals applying for MA may be eligible for MA under a Former Foster Care eligibility group. Individuals eligible for MA coverage under Former Foster Care include those who:

- are under 26.
- are not eligible or currently enrolled in **MAGI or Social Security Income (SSI)-related Non-Money Payment (NMP) MA.**

Exception: General Assistance MA, NMP spend down, Medically Needy Only (MNO) MA and MNO spend down should not be authorized for former foster care recipients. PC40 must be authorized if the individual is not eligible for MAGI MA or SSI-related NMP.

Note: If the individual fails to provide verification necessary for his or her eligibility determination for MAGI or SSI-related MA, the CAO must still authorize PC40, if all other conditions of eligibility for the Former Foster Care category are met.

- received MA in federal or state-funded foster care on or after their 18th birthday.
- meet the U.S. citizen or non-citizen requirements to be eligible (see *Medical Assistance Handbook, Chapter 322*).

Note: This group is for Former Foster Care recipients only. Individuals who received Adoption Assistance and care from Permanent Legal Custodians are not eligible for MA in this group.

There is no income or resource determination for this group.

Former foster care individuals may apply and be eligible at any time between the age of 18 and under the age of 26.

Beginning January 1, 2014, when an individual receiving MA in a federal or state-funded foster care category (PC31 or PC33) exits foster care on or after their 18th birthday, the CY-60 completed by the County Children and Youth Agency notifying the CAO of the child's discharge will serve as the application.

Individuals under age 26 who left foster care with MA on or after their 18th birthday prior to January 1, 2014 will need to submit an application to be reviewed for eligibility under the Former Foster Care category. The CAO will verify receipt of foster care and MA in CIS. Individuals who moved to Pennsylvania from another state must submit an application and provide verification of receipt of foster care and MA in that state.

These individuals are subject to an annual renewal to review for eligibility in other categories. However, the Former Foster Care budget may not be closed for failure to furnish verification.

When an individual loses eligibility under Former Foster Care, upon attaining age 26, the CAO must determine if the individual is eligible for any other category before terminating MA coverage.

If an individual is eligible for MA based on Former Foster Care, the category and program status code PC40 will be assigned to the individual. The Income Maintenance Caseworker will trigger the PC 40 category by indicating on the Individual Attributes

screen in eCIS that the individual was formerly in foster care at age 18 or older. PC 40 recipients who are under age 21 will receive Health Care Benefits Package (HCBP) #1 and recipients ages 21 to 25 will receive HCBP #2.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share and review this information with appropriate staff members.
2. Please contact your area manager if you have questions regarding this Operations Memorandum.
3. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete upon release of revised *Handbook* changes.