

**DATE:** July 6, 2016

**OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #16-07-01**

**SUBJECT:** New Shortened Application for Medicaid for Former Foster Care Youth

**TO:** Executive Directors

**FROM:** Inez Titus, Director  
Bureau of Operations

**PURPOSE**

To inform the County Assistance Offices (CAOs) of the new shortened Application for Medicaid for Former Foster Care Youth and updated processes for authorizing category/program status code PC 40.

**BACKGROUND**

Effective January 1, 2014, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) required states to provide Medicaid (Medical Assistance (MA) in Pennsylvania) for individuals up to age 26 who were in foster care and were receiving Medicaid on or after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**DISCUSSION**

When an individual exits foster care on or after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in Pennsylvania, the completed CY-60 form submitted by the County Children and Youth Agency (CCYA) serves as the application to enroll the individual in MA (PC 40). In contrast, individuals who left foster care with Medicaid on or after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to January 1, 2014, or who moved to Pennsylvania from another state must submit an application. The Application for Medicaid for Former Foster Care Youth ([PA 1933](#)) is the new shortened application for this former foster care youth population.

Before authorizing PC 40, the CAO must verify receipt of federal or state-funded foster care and eligibility for Medicaid.

- For individuals who left foster care while in Pennsylvania, this is verified through CIS/eCIS. The individual must have been eligible in the MA category/program status codes J 31, J 33, J 35, PC 31, PC 33, PC 35, PCN 31, PCN 33, and PCN 35 in order to receive PC 40.
- For individuals who moved to Pennsylvania from another state, the CAO must open the case and give the applicant 90 days to provide verification of federal or

state-funded foster care and Medicaid eligibility in that state. Once the case is opened, the caseworker must set a manual alert for the last day of the month ending the 90-day verification period. To obtain verification:

1. The applicant should reach out to the Child Welfare Agency responsible for them while they were in foster care.
  2. The applicant should contact the CCYA in Pennsylvania where they currently live.
  3. The CAO will assist the applicant by providing them with their local CCYA contact information on the PA 253 (See [Pennsylvania CCYA attachment](#)) and working with the CCYA to obtain required verification from the other state. The CAO can also obtain the CCYA contact information online by doing the following:
    - a. Go to:  
<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/findfacilsandlocs/countychildrenandyouthdirectory/index.htm>
    - b. Under “Service Code”, select County Children and Youth Agencies.
    - c. Click “Submit Search”.
- Upon receipt of verification, the CAO will scan and upload all documents to imaging in the case record. If verification is not received, the caseworker will close out PC 40 and review for other MA categories.

**Example:** An application for an individual who was in foster care is received and has an application date of 3/3/XX. The caseworker authorizes PC 40 and sets an alert for 6/30/XX.

**NOTE:** The PA 1933 is to be used for former foster care youth only. If the former foster care youth is pregnant or a parent, they should complete a COMPASS application or the PA 600 HC.

### **NEXT STEPS**

1. Share and review this information with appropriate staff members.
2. Direct questions regarding this Operations Memorandum to your Area Manager.
3. Begin using the new shortened Application for Medicaid for Former Foster Care Youth ([PA 1933](#)).