

DATE: November 7, 2016

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #16-11-03

SUBJECT: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Access to Social Services (COMPASS) Improvements for Former Foster Care Youth

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: Inez Titus, Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) that effective November 13, 2016, improvements will be made to COMPASS to provide former foster care youth with a shortened application for Health Care Coverage, as well as updated screening modules and links to easily access information on services available to them.

BACKGROUND

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires states to provide Medicaid (Medical Assistance (MA) in Pennsylvania) for individuals up to age 26 who were in foster care and receiving Medicaid at any time on or after their 18th birthday.

When an individual leaves foster care on or after their 18th 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 18th birthday prior to January 1, 2014, or who moved to Pennsylvania from another state must submit an application.

There is no income or resource determination for individuals eligible for PC 40.

DISCUSSION

On November 13, 2016, improvements are being made to COMPASS to streamline enrollment in MA for former foster care youth and to highlight the services that are available to them.

Updates Include:

- The COMPASS application for Health Care Coverage will be shortened for individuals who are applying for Health Care Coverage only; and indicate they are a former foster care youth; and are not pregnant or a parent/caretaker. Individuals who get the shortened application will not receive income, expense, health insurance, or resource questions.

NOTE: If a pregnant former foster care youth who gets the full health care application fails to provide verification necessary for her eligibility determination, then the CAO must still authorize PC 40, if all other conditions of eligibility for the Former Foster Care category are met.

- The COMPASS screening modules of “Do I Qualify” and “Apply for Health Care Only” will be updated with a former foster care youth question. Individuals who indicate they were in foster care on or after their 18th birthday will be deemed “potentially eligible” for health care and encouraged to apply on COMPASS.
- The COMPASS homepage, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and the screening and Community Partner pages will be updated to incorporate links to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Medicaid for Former Foster Youth website: <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/healthchoicespa/formerfosteryouth/index.htm>
- The Individual Attributes screen in eCIS Case Processing will be updated with a “State” field to capture State information for applicants who attest to being in foster care at age 18 or older.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share and review this Operations Memorandum information with appropriate staff.
2. Direct questions regarding this Operations Memorandum to your Area Manager.