

This message is to inform you of the upcoming changes in Medicaid eligibility for former Virginia foster care youth starting January 1st, 2014. To comply with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services is amending policy to implement a new Medicaid coverage group for former foster care youth who were receiving Virginia Medicaid at the time of their 18th birthday (see “who is eligible” below for more details). Young adults who meet the requirements for this group may be eligible to receive coverage until they turn age 26.

Why is this important?

- Youth who are discharged from foster care services are at high risk for a number of negative outcomes: homelessness, incarceration, and substance abuse are among the few. These young adults are often ineligible for health care coverage and are not able to seek the treatment and care they need.
- Enrollment into Medicaid will ensure that Virginia’s most vulnerable young adult population will have access to a variety of health care services; this includes preventive medical care and treatment, dental care, prescription medications, mental health and behavioral counseling, and substance abuse counseling.

Who is eligible starting January 1st, 2014?

- Any Virginia resident, age 26 and under who had an open foster care case and was receiving Virginia Medicaid upon their 18th birthday

How can I help?

If you know a young adult who may be eligible for coverage in this new Medicaid group, please reach out and encourage them to apply through any of the following:

- Apply online through CommonHelp – Virginians can apply for Medicaid or FAMIS as well as social service programs online at Virginia’s CommonHelp website at <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/access/>
- Apply by phone through Cover Virginia Call Center – Virginians without access to a computer can apply for Medicaid or FAMIS by calling the Cover Virginia Call Center at **1-855-242-8282**
- Apply by paper through your local department of social services – You can print the application [linked here](#) and send by mail or fax to your local department. You can also visit and apply in person.

We thank you for your continued support and compassion for the Commonwealth’s most valuable resource, our youth.

