

Expanded Medicaid for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Medicaid coverage for former foster care youth (MIYA) is complemented by new Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions

Beginning on January 1, 2014, former foster youth will be eligible for expanded Medicaid, until they reach the age of 26. The new Expanded Medicaid for Independent Young Adults (E-MIYA) will extend coverage to additional youth.

- Youth formerly in foster care under Iowa's responsibility will be eligible for E-MIYA up to age 26 without regard to income if they had federally funded Iowa Medicaid at age 18 and other requirements are met.
- Youth formerly in foster care under Iowa's responsibility will be eligible for MIYA up to age 21 if they do not qualify for E-MIYA and they meet other eligibility requirements such as MIYA income limits.
- E-MIYA is available to youth who aged out of care prior to January 1, 2014 and had federally funded Iowa Medicaid when they aged out if they will not reach age 26 on or before January 1, 2014.
- The youth must meet other eligibility requirements such as citizenship or alien status, and Iowa residency.

DHS' newly developed Medicaid eligibility system (ELIAS) will determine if youth are eligible and under which coverage group (E-MIYA or MIYA):

- Eligible youth will be automatically enrolled for either E-MIYA or MIYA when they exit foster care.
- Youth currently eligible under the MIYA coverage group will be automatically redetermined into E-MIYA or other coverage groups. These youth do not need to reapply.
- Youth who are not currently receiving Medicaid may apply by completing the new *Application for Health Coverage and Help Paying Costs* as stated below.
- Health care applications received on or after 10-01-13 will be screened for potential eligibility under E-MIYA and MIYA based on how the applicant responds to the question "were you in foster care at 18 or older". The key to youth being considered for the ACA foster care Medicaid expansion "E-MIYA" group is that they answer "Yes" to this question.
- Former foster youth will qualify for E-MIYA without regard to income if other Medicaid eligibility requirements are met. Those under 21 who do not qualify for E-MIYA will qualify for MIYA if income and other eligibility requirements are met. For example, a youth who was in foster care and receiving state-funded Medicaid when reaching age 18 due to not meeting the income requirements of federally funded Medicaid will not qualify for E-MIYA but may qualify for MIYA.

- A youth who was in foster care and receiving state-funded Medicaid when reaching age 18 due to not meeting income requirements of federally-funded Medicaid, will not qualify for E-MIYA but may qualify for MIYA.
- Those in “relative or suitable other placement” must have been receiving Iowa Medicaid at the time they aged out in order to qualify for E-MIYA.
- The E-MIYA coverage group will not cover youth who were in foster care and Medicaid from any other state besides Iowa. So, to qualify for this coverage group in Iowa, the youth must have been concurrently enrolled in Iowa foster care and Medicaid at age 18 or later. (Youth living in Iowa now who aren’t eligible for E-MIYA may still apply for Iowa Medicaid to see if they qualify under another coverage group.)
- Continued eligibility for both E-MIYA and MIYA will be reviewed annually. For this review, DHS will use information already in the file to see if it matches data from federal and state sources. If DHS is able to determine that eligibility continues by reviewing available information, the youth will not have to return a review form. If DHS needs more information, a review form will be sent so the youth can provide more information to see if Medicaid coverage can continue. As long as the youth provides any requested information, DHS will automatically look at all available coverage groups to see if the youth remains eligible for Medicaid.
- People who didn’t get automatically enrolled for some reason or who lost eligibility can apply:
 - Electronically at the health insurance marketplace Web site at www.healthcare.gov or by calling 1-800-318-2596 (TTY 1-855-889-4325). Applications for those who may be eligible for Medicaid will be routed to Iowa’s DHS for a Medicaid determination.
 - Electronically at the DHS website at www.dhs.iowa.gov or at <https://dhsservices.iowa.gov/apspssp/ssp.portal>
 - By submitting an application in person, by mail, by e-mail, or fax to a Department office.
 - By telephone at 1-855-889-7985 (DHS Contact Center) Monday-Friday 7am-6pm.

Response to Aftercare Questions:

- **Q:** Under ACA can a youth who receives E-MIYA cancel their employer offered coverage? **A:** All Medicaid recipients must apply for and accept health insurance that is reasonably available to them without charge. An E-MIYA youth with employer sponsored health coverage available to them at a cost may choose not to accept the coverage. However, the youth must cooperate with DHS’ HIPP unit in providing information about the employer sponsored health coverage. HIPP may pay the cost of the youth’s health insurance if HIPP determines that doing so will result in cost savings to the Medicaid program.
- **Q:** We know a kid who ages out of another state can’t get EMIYA here, but can a youth who ages out of Iowa apply for extended foster care Medicaid in another state? **A:** This is a state option and it would depend on the state’s Medicaid State Plan.
- **Q:** Can Gloria still be the single point of contact for EMIYA as she is for MIYA? They like her. **A:** This is a field decision.

- **Q:** Will kids be eligible who have an open DHS foster care case at age 18, but are considered runaway or on trial home visit? **A:** Possibly. The key is that the youth is in foster care under the responsibility of the state of Iowa and receiving Iowa Medicaid when they aged out. The placement does not have to be a paid foster care placement to qualify. That means that youth who aged out of relative placement and youth in a placement on a trial basis or who are in the Department's custody as a runaway status may qualify. These situations will have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. For example, kids who run away from foster care are generally canceled from Medicaid because we don't know if they are still Iowa residents; if there is no Medicaid eligibility at the time of the foster care exit, neither E-MIYA nor MIYA eligibility would exist in this situation.
- **Q:** Can some undocumented kids get Medicaid? **A:** To qualify for either E-MIYA and MIYA, the youth must meet citizenship/alien requirements.
- **Q:** Have you considered making business cards to hand out to the youth with Medicaid information on it? **A:** We will take this suggestion to the Communications teams.
- **Q:** Can aftercare get one of you to come to the January meeting to discuss how it's going? **A:** This will depend on our workload in January.