

2818 – CHAFEE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM MEDICAID

<b>POLICY STATEMENT</b>	The Foster Care Independence Act allows Medicaid coverage to be extended to individuals who age out of foster care the month of their 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday up until their 21st birthday. Applicants may not be determined ineligible based on a diagnosis or pre-existing condition.
<b>BASIC CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<p>Chafee Independence Program Medicaid became effective July 1, 2008. Former foster youth may apply for Chafee Independence Medicaid with the Right From the Start (RSM) Outreach Project or at any Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) office.</p> <p>Reference <a href="#">Section 2890</a> – Child Welfare Foster Care Medicaid for children in placement for whom DFCS has partial or total custody and may be age 18 to 21.</p> <p>The eligibility month is the month following a foster child’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or the month a former foster child over the age of 18 and under the age of 21 applies for the Chafee Independence Program Medicaid.</p>
<b>Basic Eligibility Criteria</b>	<p>The following basic eligibility criteria must be met to qualify for Chafee Medicaid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Age: A youth must have been in foster care the month of his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and be under the age of 21;</li> <li>- Enumeration;</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Enumeration is not a requirement for Emergency Medical assistance (EMA). Refer to Section 2054, EMA; Reference <a href="#">Section 2220</a>, Enumeration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residency, Reference <a href="#">Section 2225</a>, Residency;</li> <li>- Citizenship/Immigration Status/Identity ;</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Individuals who were in foster care under Title IV-B or Title IV-E of the Social Security Act are exempt from providing additional documentary evidence of citizenship/immigration status/identity as long as they were in Foster Care in Georgia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Third Party Liability, Reference <a href="#">Section 2230</a>, TPL;</li> <li>- Application for other benefits, Reference <a href="#">Section 2210</a>, Application for Other Benefits.</li> </ul> <p>There are <b>no</b> income or resource limits for Chafee Medicaid.</p>
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Chafee Medicaid Cases are reviewed on an annual basis until the recipient turns 21.

**Other Considerations  
(cond.)**

Chafee Independence recipients are eligible for retroactive Medicaid.

EMA is available under Chafee Independence Medicaid.

Chafee recipients are enrolled in Amerigroup as their CMO enrollment.

Non MAGI Family Medicaid recipients who are former foster children may request a Class of Assistance change to Chafee Independence Medicaid.

Individuals currently in foster care who are approaching their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday will have a continuing Medicaid determination (CMD) completed by Rev Max for Chafee Independence Program Medicaid prior to aging out of foster care.

**PROCEDURES**

**Continuing Medicaid  
Determination**

Rev Max will complete a continuing Medicaid determination (CMD) following the steps below for a current foster child in the month of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday:

- For eligibility month following the month of individual's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday:
  - Verify that individual was in a state's legal custody on his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - For ICPC placements in Georgia, verify through Independent Living Regional Coordinators the foster care status in original state of custody.

**NOTE:** Written verification **must** be maintained in the case record. An ICPC placement in Georgia aging out of foster care and remaining in Georgia is considered a Georgia resident.

- Verify that individual will not be eligible for [Child Welfare Foster Care](#) Medicaid criteria
- Accept the client's statement as to Georgia residency
- Complete the DMA 285 – Third Party Liability

**NOTE:** There is no income or resource test for Chafee Medicaid.

- SUCCESS Procedures
  - Initiate an Add-A-Program to the existing case
  - Select Class of Assistance F40 – Child Welfare Foster Care for month following 18th birthday
  - Code DEM1 Living Arrangement field “IL – Independent Living”
  - Document all appropriate SUCCESS screens, including FCAR, following Appendix D standards.
  - Close existing active case
  - Approve F40 ongoing month

**PROCEDURES (cont.)**

- Deny current month

**NOTE:** CWFC recipients will continue to be coded FC for Living Arrangement In SUCCESS.

- **SHINES Procedures:**
  - Document Contacts/Summary page with the CMD result and case transfer information.
- If the individual has an active or pending related case, Rev Max will transfer the case and case record to the county with the related case.
- If there is no related active or pending case, Rev Max will transfer the ongoing Chafee F40 case in SUCCESS and send case information via email to the RSM Outreach Project at [Chafee@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:Chafee@dhr.state.ga.us). The e-mail must contain the case name, AU number, last agency that had custody of child and date transferred along with the RMS contact information.
- Contact Britt Meeks, Lowndes Team Supervisor, for transfer instructions or email [chafee@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:chafee@dhr.state.ga.us) to request load to which to transfer in SUCCESS.
- No physical record will be mailed to the RSM Outreach Project.
- SUCCESS will be documented for either the transfer of case to RSM Outreach Project through SUCCESS or the case and case record transfer to a county DFCS office at the FCAR screen.
- All corresponding emails concerning the transfer to RSM Outreach Project or to a county DFCS will be maintained in the case record.

**New Applications**

For determining eligibility for Chafee Medicaid on new applications, complete the following steps:

- Verify that the individual was in foster care on his or her 18th birth day by screening in SUCCESS, by contacting the Independent Living Coordinator, or by contacting the county with legal custody while the child was in foster care.
- Assume the individual who ages out of care with the State of Georgia meets citizenship/immigration status/identity unless information to the contrary is known to the agency. No additional citizenship/immigration status or identity documents are required.

**Note:** Individuals who were in foster care under Title IV-B or Title IV-E of the Social Security Act are exempt from providing additional documentary evidence of citizenship/immigration status/identity as long as they were in Foster Care in Georgia.

- Verify citizenship/immigration status/identity for individuals who were in foster care in other states and request Chafee Medicaid in

**NEW APPLICATIONS  
(CONT)**

Georgia after their 18th birthday.

- Accept the client's statement as to Georgia residency
- Complete the DMA 285 – Third Party Liability

**NOTE:** There is no income or resource test for Chafee Medicaid.

- Register the Medicaid application as an F40, Child Welfare Foster Care, case.
- Process as an AU of one
- Code DEM1 Living Arrangement field "IL – Independent Living"
- Follow Appendix D – Documentation Standards including FCAR.
- Request copies of documentation from the closed foster care case record from the appropriate Rev Max Regional Office.

**Ongoing Cases**

Chafee Medicaid cases that have an active or pending related case will remain with the county.

Chafee Medicaid cases that have no active or pending related case will be transferred to the RSM Outreach Project. Contact Britt Meeks, ECS Team Supervisor, for transfer and mailing instructions at [chafee@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:chafee@dhr.state.ga.us).

Chafee Medicaid Cases are required to have an annual review.

**NOTE:** Court orders and existing foster care documentation must be retained in the closed foster care case record and may NOT be cleansed when transferred to another county DFCS office.

**Case Records for Children  
with Expired Eligibility**

**Closed Cases – Foster Care** case records for recipients for whom eligibility has expired, i.e. where the recipient has turned age 26, should be maintained in Rev Max closed files following the retention schedule found in [Section 2760 - Case Record Maintenance](#). Court orders and existing foster care documentation must be retained in the Chafee Medicaid case record and may not be cleansed.

**Retention of Case Records** – Due to IV-E Foster Care and Medicaid regulations, Chafee Medicaid case records must be retained in their entirety (both IV-E FC material and Medicaid material) for a period of three years from the recipient's 26<sup>th</sup> birthday (i.e. no earlier than the recipient's 29<sup>th</sup> birthday).