

2818 – CHAFEE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM MEDICAID

POLICY STATEMENT	The Foster Care Independence Act allows Medicaid coverage to be extended to individuals who age out of foster care the month of their 18 th birthday up until their 21st birthday. Applicants may not be determined ineligible based on a diagnosis or pre-existing condition.
<p data-bbox="180 386 570 464">BASIC CONSIDERATIONS</p> <p data-bbox="180 835 570 913">Basic Eligibility Criteria</p>	<p data-bbox="570 386 1508 464">Chafee Independence Program Medicaid became effective July 1, 2008.</p> <p data-bbox="570 499 1508 611">Reference Section 2890 – 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 data-bbox="570 632 1508 779">The eligibility month is the month following a foster child’s 18th 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. Eligibility redeterminations are completed annually.</p> <p data-bbox="570 835 1508 913">The following basic eligibility criteria must be met to qualify for Chafee Medicaid:</p> <ul data-bbox="678 940 1508 1073" style="list-style-type: none"> - Age: A youth must have been in foster care the month of his/her 18th birthday and be under the age of 21. - Enumeration <p data-bbox="630 1115 1508 1192">NOTE: Enumeration is not a requirement for Emergency Medical assistance (EMA). Refer to Section 2054, EMA.</p> <p data-bbox="630 1199 1508 1234">Refer to Section 2220, Enumeration.</p> <ul data-bbox="678 1268 1508 1822" style="list-style-type: none"> - Residency Refer to Section 2225, Residency. - Citizenship/Identity or Alienage 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/identity as long as they were in Foster Care in Georgia. - Third Party Resource Refer to Section 2230, TPR. - Application for other benefits Refer to Section 2210, Application for Other Benefits. <p data-bbox="570 1843 1508 1879">There are no income or resource limits for Chafee Medicaid.</p>

ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT CHAFEE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM MEDICAID

Other Considerations

Chafee Medicaid Cases are reviewed on an annual basis until the recipient turns 21.

Chafee Independence recipients are eligible for retroactive Medicaid.

EMA is available under Chafee Independence Medicaid.

Chafee recipients are enrolled in fee-for-service and must be delinked from CMO enrollment if aging out of RSM Medicaid.

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

Individuals may apply for the Chafee Independence Program Medicaid with any county DFCS office or RSM Project.

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

PROCEDURES**Continuing Medicaid
Determination**

RevMax will complete a continuing Medicaid determination (CMD) following the steps below for a current foster child in the month of their 18th birthday:

- For eligibility month following the month of individual's 18th birthday:
 - Verify that individual was in a state's legal custody on his or her 18th 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”

PROCEDURES (cont.)

- Document all appropriate SUCCESS screens, including FCAR, following Appendix D
- Close existing active case
- Approve F40 ongoing month
- Deny current month

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

- If there is no related case, RevMax will transfer the ongoing case and case record to the RSM Project
- If the individual has an active or pending related case, RevMax will transfer the case and case record to the county with the related case.

New Applications

Former foster youth may apply with the RSM Project or at any DFCS county office.

For determining eligibility for Chafee Medicaid on new applications for , 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/identity unless information to the contrary is known to the agency. No additional citizenship 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/identity as long as they were in Foster Care in Georgia.

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

Ongoing Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Request the closed case record from the appropriate RevMax Regional Office. <p>Chafee cases that have an active or pending related case will remain with the county.</p> <p>Chafee cases that have no active or pending related case will be transferred to the RSM Project ECS Team. Contact Britt Meeks, ECS Team Supervisor (912)338-5289 for transfer and mailing instructions.</p> <p>Chafee Medicaid Cases are required to have an annual review.</p> <p>NOTE: Court orders and existing foster care documentation must be retained in the Chafee case record and may NOT be cleansed when transferred to the RSM Project or another county DFCS office.</p>
Case Records for Children with Expired Eligibility	<p>Closed Cases - Case records for recipients for whom eligibility has expired, i.e. where the recipient has turned age 21, should be returned to the original county DFCS office (i.e. the county that had custody of the child when he or she aged out) to be housed.</p> <p>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 21st birthday (i.e. no earlier than the recipient’s 24th birthday).</p>