

## 2890 - CHILD WELFARE FOSTER CARE MEDICAID

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| <b>POLICY STATEMENT</b>         | <p>Child Welfare Foster Care (CWFC) Medicaid provides coverage to children in placement for whom DFCS has partial or total responsibility, but who have been determined ineligible for IV-E Foster Care. Eligibility includes CWFC children ages 18 to 21 years if CWFC per diem payments continue to be made on their behalf.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>BASIC<br/>CONSIDERATIONS</b> | <p>Eligibility for any non IV-E foster care child may also be determined under Right From the Start Medicaid. If eligibility is determined under RSM, all siblings in the same foster home placement must be included in the same RSM AU. If the child is financially ineligible for RSM and CWFC, provide the SSCM with a PeachCare for Kids® application and PeachCare for Kids program information. If the child is financially ineligible for PeachCare for Kids®, process the application as Family Medicaid Medically Needy.</p> <p>A child committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice or an agency of the Department of Human Services other than DFCS is ineligible for CWFC. Eligibility may be determined under RSM, or if financially ineligible, PeachCare for Kids®. If the child is financially ineligible for PeachCare for Kids®, eligibility may be determined under Family Medicaid Medically Needy.</p> <p>CWFC children must meet the following Basic Eligibility Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Age</li><li>• Application for other benefits</li><li>• Citizenship/immigration status</li><li>• Enumeration</li><li>• Third party liability</li></ul> <p><b>Basic Eligibility Criteria</b> <b>NOTE:</b> Any youth who has been IV-E eligible, but reaches the age of 18 and voluntarily signs back into Extended Youth Support Services is classified as CWFC beginning the first day of the following month after reaching age 18 if a per diem has been paid and all financial and non-financial requirements continue to be made.</p> <p>The parents of a CWFC Medicaid child under the age of 18 are referred to Child Support Services unless Good Cause is established. Good Cause must be supported by a written statement signed by the County Director/County Program Director.</p> <p>Refer to Chapter 2200, Basic Eligibility Criteria.</p> |

**BASIC  
CONSIDERATIONS  
(cont.)****Financial Eligibility  
Criteria**

CWFC children must meet LIM income and resource limits.

Refer to Section 2650, Family Medicaid Budgeting and Appendix A2, Financial Limits for Family Medicaid.

The child's eligibility for CWFC Medicaid is determined according to the child's circumstances in foster care. Income and resources of the parent(s) or other specified relative(s) are not considered.

All earnings of a child are disregarded regardless of the age of the child; therefore, the earnings of a child up to 21 are disregarded. Although the child's earnings are disregarded, the child's resources must be considered and applied to the resource limit. If the child's resources exceed the limit, he/she is ineligible for CWFC Medicaid.

CWFC children must be under partial or total financial responsibility of DFCS.

CWFC children must be placed in an approved foster care home or licensed child caring facility.

**Other  
Considerations**

Refer to Section 2066, Placement Outside the Home.

CWFC Medicaid eligibility continues through the month in which the CWFC youth reaches age 21, if a CWFC per diem payment continues to be made and all financial and non-financial requirements continue to be met.

Eligibility for CWFC Medicaid is not determined for the month of placement if the child received Medicaid under another COA during that month.

A CWFC child is excluded from any LIM AU, even if the child is a minor parent.

Each foster child is assigned an individual case number and case record, independent of siblings or half-siblings that may be in the same foster care placement for CWFC.

Applications for CWFC are initiated in the county of legal residence where the court order or voluntary placement agreement was signed.

Any written request for CWFC Medicaid by a SSCM on behalf of a child is considered an application for Medicaid.

**BASIC  
CONSIDERATIONS  
(cont.)****Other  
Considerations  
(cont.)**

Screen the foster child for IV-E eligibility. Refer to Section 2815, IV-E Foster Care Medicaid.

If the foster child is **NOT** IV-E eligible, determine Medicaid eligibility under Right From the Start Medicaid or proceed with the CWFC determination.

**PROCEDURES**

Follow the steps below to determine Medicaid eligibility under CWFC.

Determine eligibility of the foster child under all LIM basic eligibility criteria except living with a specified relative.

Review that the child is in an approved foster family home or a licensed child caring facility.

Determine all income and resources of the child and complete the budgeting process using the LIM income and resource limits. Use deductions, if applicable. Refer to Section 2655, Family Medicaid Deductions.

If the child meets all requirements, authorize CWFC Medicaid and send a NOC to notify the SSCM. Include in the notification the beginning date of Medicaid eligibility and the Medicaid recipient number.

**NOTE:** Continue Medicaid eligibility through the month in which the CWFC youth reaches age 21, as long as CWFC per diem payments continue to be made and the child continues to meet all CWFC financial and non-financial requirements.

If the child is determined ineligible for CWFC, complete a CMD prior to termination of Medicaid.

A Medicaid review is required every six (6) months.

| CHART 2890.1 - SPECIAL SITUATIONS IN CWFC                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                              |
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| IF                                                                                                                                      | THEN determine Medicaid eligibility for the child as:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | AND determine financial eligibility                                                                                                                          |
| A Georgia CWFC child is placed out-of-state                                                                                             | Eligible in Georgia.<br><br><b>NOTE:</b> The SSCM in other state will assist the foster parents in locating providers who will accept Georgia Medicaid coverage.                                                                                                                                   | Child only                                                                                                                                                   |
| A CWFC child is returned to his/her parents for a trial placement                                                                       | Ineligible for CWFC Medicaid. CMD and provide timely notice.<br><br><b>NOTE:</b> Parents may apply for Medicaid for the child with a county DFCS.                                                                                                                                                  | Parents and child if parents apply for Medicaid                                                                                                              |
| A CWFC child runs away                                                                                                                  | Ineligible for CWFC Medicaid. CMD and provide timely notice.<br><br><b>NOTE:</b> The SSCM may file a new application for IV-E FC Medicaid when the child returns to a foster care placement, but AFDC eligibility does not have to be established. All other eligibility requirements must be met. | Child only                                                                                                                                                   |
| A CWFC child is on run away status longer than six months, or the court order expires and the child subsequently returns to foster care | The placement must be considered a new placement. A new (initial) determination of all eligibility factors is required. In addition, the judicial determination regarding “ <i>contrary to the welfare</i> ” and “ <i>reasonable efforts to prevent removal</i> ” are required.                    | Child only                                                                                                                                                   |
| A CWFC child has a child living with him/her in placement                                                                               | The CWFC child’s child is potentially eligible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LIM</li> <li>• Newborn (NB)</li> <li>• RSM</li> <li>• CWFC</li> <li>• MN</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   | LIM: Child as AU of one, excluding CWFC parent and per diem<br>NB: N/A<br>RSM, CWFC and MN: BG including parent and child, including per diem of CWFC parent |

| CHART 2890.1 - SPECIAL SITUATIONS IN CWFC (CONT.)                      |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                 |
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| IF                                                                     | THEN determine Medicaid eligibility for the child as:                                                                                         | AND determine financial eligibility                                                             |
| A CWFC child has a child in foster care living in a separate placement | The CWFC child's child may be eligible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IV-E</li><li>• RSM,</li><li>• CWFC</li><li>• MN</li></ul> | IV-E: Establish eligibility using BG from which child was removed.<br>RSM, CWFC, MN: Child only |