

Medi-Cal Program Guide Letter (MPG) # 804

February 22, 2014

Subject EXTENSION OF FORMER FOSTER CARE CHILDREN'S (FFCC) PROGRAM- UPDATE

Effective January 1, 2014

Reference Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) I 14-05 and I 14-11

Purpose To provide staff with updated regulations regarding the extension of FFCC coverage up to age 26 effective January 1, 2014.

Background Individuals who were under the responsibility of the State on their 18th birthday, in receipt of Foster Care (FC) services under aid codes 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 49, 4C, 4H, 4L, 4N, 5K, and are losing coverage due to aging out of FC may be eligible to have their Medi-Cal coverage extended up to age 21. This extended coverage is also available to FFCC who turned 18 while in FC in another state and subsequently moved to San Diego. This extended coverage is known as the FFCC program and beneficiaries are placed into aid code 4M.

On July 2013, the provisions of Assembly Bill (AB) 82 allowed partial implementation of the new rules which allows FFCC beneficiaries who lost eligibility due to aging out between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013 have their benefits extended up to age 26.

Highlighted Changes Effective January 1, 2014, individuals who age out of FC at age 18 or older are eligible to receive FFCC benefits up to age 26.

Prior FC status can be self-attested to at application and verified later. If an individual applies as a FFCC, the worker is to determine the applicant eligible for FFCC based on the attestation and give the applicant a 30 days reasonable opportunity period (ROP). During this period, the worker is responsible for verifying prior FC status from the county or state where the individual aged out of FC.

The following link should be used as a starting point when verifying

prior FC out of state: [National Resource Center for Youth Development](#).

If unable to obtain the information, and after the 30 days ROP, the worker will ask for the income information to determine eligibility in another MAGI group until FC status is verified.

To apply for FFCC, applicants can use the MC250A or any other acceptable statement of facts. If the applicant submits the Single Streamlined Application, it is considered complete when:

- Pages 2-3 are filled out;
- Applicable FC questions on page 4 are completed; and
- Page 17 is signed and dated.

Any prior FFCC beneficiaries who lost eligibility due to turning 21 years of age under aid code 4M prior to July 1, 2013 can request retroactive coverage in 2014 as follows:

Application Month	Eligible Retro Month(s)
January 2014	N/A
February 2014	January 2014
March 2014	January, February 2014
April 2014	January, February, March 2014

Required Action

Staff who have override access must take the following steps to continue benefits for FFCC who meet the criteria outlined in [MPG 05.15.10.B](#) and age out of FC:

Step	Action						
1	Rescind the discontinuance.						
2	Run EDBC.						
3	Override to the Display Eligibility Summary and Display Individual Eligibility Summary windows as outlined in How To #128 .						
4	Review printed correspondence						
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>If a discontinuance NOA was ...</th> <th>Then the worker must generate and issue ...</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>mailed</td> <td>a rescission NOA and OCC 14-121.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>not mailed</td> <td>OCC 14-121</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	If a discontinuance NOA was ...	Then the worker must generate and issue ...	mailed	a rescission NOA and OCC 14-121.	not mailed	OCC 14-121
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mailed	a rescission NOA and OCC 14-121.						
not mailed	OCC 14-121						
5	Document all actions in Case Comments.						

Support and Monitoring

The [FFCC 4M Reaching Age 21 Report](#) supports FRCs in identifying and ensuring the extension of Medi-Cal benefits for FC children reaching age 21. The report includes a case list of all FC children reaching age 21 in that month. The report is available in SharePoint the first week of every month.

Corrective Action Liaisons must ensure that the benefits for these FFCC are reinstated timely.

A report will be created and will be made available to staff that flags aged out children previously in FC in San Diego.

Automation Impact

At this time, CalWIN functionality does not support the continuation of FFCC benefits to age 26. Staff must apply [How To #128](#) to Override the *Display Eligibility Summary* and *Display Individual Eligibility Summary* windows.

NOTE: The override instructions are interim procedures until CalWIN functionality is available.

Forms Impact

MC 250A has been revised and is available for order through Xerox Services.

ACCESS Impact

No Impact

Imaging Impact

No Impact

PA (CalFresh or CalWORKs) Program Impact

No Impact

Quality Control (QC) Impact

Effective with the April 2014 review month. QC will cite the appropriate error on any case that does not comply with the requirements outlined in this letter.

Summary of Changes

The table below shows the changes made in the MPG cites.

Section	Summary of Change
Article 5, Section 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated regulations to extended FFCC to age 26

Approval for Release

CK Henry for Rick Wanne

EM

5.15.10 Former Foster Care Children (FFCC)

A. Background

The FFCC program allows Medi-Cal benefits to be extended for all children who are in foster care under the responsibility of the State on their 18th birthday. FFCC who meet the criteria outlined in MPG [05.15.10.B](#) will have benefits extended as follows:

ACWDL
00-41
00-61

Effective	Age
October 1, 2000	Benefits will be extended up to age 21
January 1, 2014	Benefits will be extended up to age 26

NOTE: FFCC beneficiaries lost eligibility due to aging out between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013 had their benefits extended up to age 26. This early extension of FFCC benefits did not apply to beneficiaries who already reached age 21 and who were discontinued prior to July 1, 2013.

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MPG LTR 799 (07/13) and 804 (03/14)

B. Eligibility Requirements

Continuation of FFCC benefits must be allowed regardless of any change in circumstance if the youth:

- Is a California resident
- Was in aid codes 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 49, 4C, 4H, 4L, 4N, 5K on their 18th birthday
- Was discontinued due to aging out, not exceeding FFCC program age limits defined in MPG 05.15.10.A

Prior FC status can be self- attested to at application and verified later. If an individual applies as a FFCC, the worker is to determine the applicant eligible for FFCC based on the attestation and give the applicant a 30 days reasonable opportunity period (ROP). During this period, the worker is responsible for verifying prior FC status from the county or state where the individual aged out of FC.

The following link should be used as a starting point when verifying prior FC out of state: [National Resource Center for Youth Development](#).

If unable to obtain the information, and after the 30 days ROP, the worker will ask for the income information to determine eligibility in another MAGI group until FC status is verified.

MPG LTR 804 (03/2014)

**C.
FFCC
Ineligibles**

The following people are ineligible for this program:

- Children who were in foster care at 100% county expense such as those in aid codes 82 and 83.
- Undocumented alien children (there are no restricted benefits available under this program).
- Incarcerated children.
- Children in residential treatment facilities.
- Minors emancipated and/or discontinued from foster care prior to their 18th birthday.

MPG LTR 555 (05/04)

**D.
Aid Code**

There is no income or resource test for this program, regardless of the individual’s living situation or with whom they reside.

Aid Code	Description
4M	Zero SOC full scope benefits, including Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Services

NOTE: This group may voluntarily enroll in a Medi-Cal/Healthy San Diego Managed Care Plan.

MPG LTR 555 (05/04)

E.

People in the FFCC aid code are in an MFBU by themselves. The

MFBU Composition FFCC person's case must be in his/her name. They are treated the same as other Public Assistance persons in the MFBU of family members that they live with.

Examples:

- If a FFCC person returns to live with parents who are already Medi-Cal eligible, the parents will continue in their existing aid code and case name and the FFCC person will continue in the new 4M aid code with a case in his/her name.
- If the FFCC person has a child, the child will be evaluated for Medi-Cal based upon program eligibility rules applicable to the child.
- If other family members apply for CalWORKs, the FFCC person will not be affected since the other family members and their eligibility will be evaluated based on existing program rules. The FFCC person remains in aid code 4M in a budget unit of one, as long as he/she continues to meet the criteria and wishes to maintain Medi-Cal coverage.

MPG LTR 555 (05/04)

F. Order of Evaluation The FFCC Program is first in the order of evaluation. It is a voluntary program. FFCC people may choose not to participate in the FFCC Program and/or be included on the MFBU of other family members, if eligible to that program. They may want to do this to reduce the SOC of a family member. In this case, they must meet the requirements, including providing all information and verifications, of that program. **It is always the (potential) FFCC person's choice to participate in the FFCC Program.** Another family member cannot make this decision for them.

MPG LTR 555 (05/04)

05.15.11 FFCC Case Processing Procedures

A. Overview This section provides instructions on how the FFCC program should be evaluated in the following circumstances:

ACWDL
01-60

- Active Foster Care Case
- Discontinued Foster Care Case
- New applications received for a former foster care recipient
- Redetermination of FFCC program
- Discontinuing a FFCC beneficiary

B. Active Foster Care

Foster Care (FC) beneficiaries must be re-evaluated on their 18th birthday as follows:

If ...	Then the FC beneficiary must...
enrolled in high school or in a qualifying vocational program	Continue on FC aid code
not enrolled in high school or in a qualifying vocational program	Be evaluated for FFCC

FC children approaching age 18 must receive the following:

Type	Number	Description
OCC	14-121	Provides information regarding FFCC program
Form	CSF 37	School Attendance Verification

MPG LTR 555 (05/04)

C. Discontinued Foster Care

When a FC case closes, a FC worker will:

Step	Action
1	Confirm the FC child meets the FFCC criteria outlined in MPG 05.15.10.B.
2	APP/REG a new Medi-Cal case.
3	Approve FFCC benefits.
4	Narrate all actions taken.

MPG LTR 555 (05/04)

D. Application

Applications received for individuals who meet the FFCC criteria defined in [MPG 05.15.10.B](#), will be processed as follows:

Step	Action						
1	Provide form MC250A or any other acceptable statement of facts						
	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>If MC 250A or any other acceptable SOF is ...</th><th>Then...</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>completed and returned</td><td>go to Step 2</td></tr><tr><td>not returned</td><td>allow 10/10 as outlined in MPG 04.13.02</td></tr></tbody></table>	If MC 250A or any other acceptable SOF is ...	Then...	completed and returned	go to Step 2	not returned	allow 10/10 as outlined in MPG 04.13.02
	If MC 250A or any other acceptable SOF is ...	Then...					
completed and returned	go to Step 2						
not returned	allow 10/10 as outlined in MPG 04.13.02						
2	Grant FFCC benefits, no other forms/verifications are						

	required.
3	Narrate all actions.

If the applicant submits the Single Streamlined Application, it is considered complete when:

- Pages 2-3 are filled out,
- Applicable foster care questions on page 4 are completed, and
- Page 17 is signed and dated.

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NOTE:

If within age 18- 21, FFCC benefits may be issued retroactively effective with the child's 18th birthday or the month after foster care benefits terminated, whichever is later, but not prior to October 1, 2000, the date of implementation of the FFCC Program.

Any prior FFCC beneficiaries who lost eligibility due to turning 21 years of age under aid code 4M prior to July 1, 2013 can request retroactive coverage in 2014 as follows:

Application Month	Eligible Retro Month(s)
January 2014	N/A
February 2014	January 2014
March 2014	January, February 2014
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MPG LTR 555 (05/04) and 804 (03/2014)
