



DID YOU KNOW?

There is health care and tuition help that you can get as a **foster youth**. **IT IS ALL YOURS**. Your doctor bills can get covered and so can your college tuition. Read this card to find out if you qualify.

HEALTH CARE

AS OF JANUARY 2014: Former foster youth are eligible for Medicaid coverage regardless of income

REQUIREMENTS:

1. You must be under age 26
2. You must have aged out of the foster care system

OVER AGE 26?

1. If you **earn less than \$15,856** a year, Maryland will continue to cover your insurance through Medicaid
2. If you **earn more than \$15,856** a year, you can sign up for commercial insurance on the Maryland Health Connection

Everyone who was enrolled in PAC was moved into Medicaid in January 2014.



WHAT'S COVERED?

MEDICAID INCLUDES:

- Free visits to a family doctor
- Free outpatient visits to a counselor or psychiatrist for mental health services
- Lower-priced or no-cost prescription drugs
- Family planning services and supplies
- Inpatient hospital care
- Outpatient visits and specialty provider services
- Laboratory and X-ray services



HOW TO ENROLL

Apply for Medicaid at your local health department, local DSS office, or with the Maryland Health Connection.

- Say you were in foster care when you apply
- Remind folks you were in foster care at your annual renewal

Call this number if you need help: **1-855-642-8572**

DON'T QUALIFY FOR MEDICAID? Apply for health insurance through Maryland Health Connection

- Enrollment is open until **March 31, 2014**
 - In-person, on-line and call center assistance are available for you or anyone who applies for coverage through the Maryland Health Connection
 - Call **1-855-642-8572** or **1-855-642-8573 for TTY**, Mon. to Fri. 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. for help or for the location of someone who can help you enroll in your community;
 - Go to www.marylandhealthconnection.gov to enroll or get a list of organizations that can answer questions or help you enroll



YEP, IT'S ALL YOURS



COLLEGE AND VOCATIONAL TUITION

Former foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth are eligible for free tuition for up to 5 years after enrolling at a Maryland state university, college or vocational program.

- You are eligible if you
 - (a) Are under 25 and lived in an out-of-home placement when:
 - You graduated high school or
 - You completed your GED or
 - You were adopted or placed into guardianship, when you were 13 or older or
 - You are the younger sibling and in the same family with someone who was adopted or placed into guardianship when they were 13 or older or
 - (b) Are under 25 and in an unstable housing situation (e.g. couch surfing, shelter, on the streets, in a car or vacant house or building) without financial or other support from parents or legal guardians

Free tuition for up to 5 years after enrolling at a Maryland state school or program for:

- A vocational certificate
- An Associate's degree
- A Bachelor's degree

APPLYING FOR THE FREE TUITION BENEFIT

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by **March 1st** in the year prior to enrolling in school and every year after:
 - If you are applying as a current or former foster youth, make sure to check the box that says: "Ward/dependency of the state or courts" to get your tuition covered
 - If you are an unaccompanied homeless youth that meets the requirements in (b) above, answer "yes" in the appropriate place to indicate that your school district's homeless education liaison, the director of a HUD-funded shelter, or the director of a Runaway and Homeless Youth Act basic center has determined your homelessness, or contact your college's financial aid office to explain your circumstances and request that the office make a determination that you are unaccompanied and homeless.
 - Make sure to activate the waiver by contacting the financial aid office at the school or program you decide to attend
- This benefit **only applies** if you are enrolled before your 25th birthday.

ADDITIONAL HELP

VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT FOR FORMER CHILDREN IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE (CINA):

Do you need help accessing housing or other services?
If your CINA case closed when you were 18-20.5 years old, and you meet certain criteria, you can enter into a voluntary placement agreement with the Department of Social Services. This agreement will give you access to supportive services wherever you're living in Maryland, including housing up to age 21. A lawyer and court oversight are provided to ensure your needs are met.

If you were in **foster care** and need help, contact **Hope Forward**: (410) 856-1700, 10 South Street, Suite 600, Baltimore, MD 21202.
www.hope-forward.org.

If you are **homeless** and without support from a parent or legal guardian and want help accessing higher education, contact the **Public Justice Center**: (410) 625-9409, 1 N Charles Street, #200, Baltimore, MD 21201.
www.publicjustice.org.

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
www.acy.org

 @MarylandACY

 Advocates for Children and Youth