

H-2500 YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE**H-2510 GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Act allows Louisiana to offer Medicaid to youth aging out of foster care and leaving state custody. This includes individuals who have aged out of foster care in other states and now reside in Louisiana. For the purposes of this program, the term “youth” means an individual who is under 21 years of age and who, on the individual’s 18th birthday, was in foster care under the responsibility of the state. This program covers youth who reach age 18 on or after March 1, 2009 and coverage continues up to their 21st birthday.

Note:

Effective January 1, 2014, youth who age out of foster care that were enrolled in Medicaid at the time of their 18th birthday are to be certified in the Former Foster Care Children group (refer to [H-3100 Former Foster Care Children](#)). Eligibility in this group shall be considered prior to the Youth Aging Out of Foster Care (YAOFC) program.

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If eligibility is lost due to moving out of state, a youth may be recertified in the YAOFC program if Louisiana residency is re-established prior to turning age 21.

H-2510.1 COVERAGE

Youths certified in this program are eligible for the full range of Medicaid covered services.

H-2520 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

Determine eligibility by applying the following criteria. The elements have been listed in the most logical order, but work on all steps simultaneously.

H-2520.1 DETERMINE ASSISTANCE UNIT

The assistance unit consists of the youth that has aged out of foster care and is no longer in state custody.

H-2520.2 ESTABLISH CATEGORICAL REQUIREMENT

Establish that the applicant/beneficiary:

- Is at least age 18, but under age 21;
- Currently lives in Louisiana;
- Was a child in foster care in any state's custody upon obtaining age 18 on or after March 1, 2009 (enrollment in Medicaid upon obtaining age 18 is not a requirement of eligibility for the program); and
- Is not eligible or enrolled for mandatory coverage in another Medicaid program.

H-2520.3 ESTABLISH NON-FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

Verify eligibility for the youth with regard to the following factors:

- [Age - MAGI-Related I-100](#)
- [Assignment of Third Party Rights I-200](#)
- [Citizenship / Identity and Qualified Non-Citizen Status I-300](#)
- [Enumeration I-600](#)
- [Residence I-1900](#)

H-2520.4 ESTABLISH NEED

- A. There is no resource test in determining eligibility.
- B. There is no income test in determining eligibility.

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H-2520.5 ELIGIBILITY DECISION

Evaluate all eligibility requirements to determine if the youth is eligible.

H-2520.6 CERTIFICATION PERIOD

The certification period may be effective no earlier than three (3) months prior to the application date provided the individual is otherwise eligible. The months of retroactive coverage are not included in the twelve (12) month certification period. The twelve (12) month certification period begins with the month of application.

Retroactive medical eligibility shall be explored for the three months prior to the month of application. Refer to [H-1800 Retroactive Medical Eligibility \(RME\)](#).

Note:

Prior to closure of the Youth Aging Out of Foster Care, eligibility in other programs must be explored.

H-2520.7 NOTICE OF DECISION

Send the appropriate notice of decision to the applicant/beneficiary.