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# The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Former Foster Youth Medicaid Eligibility

AHCCCS Tribal Consultation  
October 22, 2015



# AHCCCS Health Coverage (Recap)

- AHCCCS offers health insurance for eligible children (under 19 years old). For those who qualify, per the income limits, there are no monthly premiums.
- AHCCCS Acute Health Plans cover adults ages 19 to 64 up to 138% FPL, who qualify for AHCCCS Medical Assistance (MA)
- AHCCCS covers adults in any of the following categories who do not qualify for MA:
  - Caretaker Relative
  - Pregnant Women
  - SSI-MAO (Age 65 of older, blind or disabled)



# Foster Youth Health Coverage

Section 2004 of the Affordable Care Act added a new mandatory group for former foster care children at section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(IX) of the Social Security Act.

- **Program for Those Previously Enrolled in DES Foster Care:**
- If the applicant was in the custody of the Department of Economic Security (DES) and placed in a foster home or with a child welfare agency on the child's 18th birthday, the child may qualify for AHCCCS Health Insurance, regardless of how much money the person makes.





# Foster Youth Health Coverage

- **CMS FAQ (December 2013) Provided Guidance to State Medicaid Programs on the New Adult Group**
  - Under the ACA, states must cover individuals under age 26 who were both enrolled in Medicaid and in foster care under the responsibility of the state or tribe upon attaining either age 18 or such higher age as the state or Tribe has elected for termination of federal foster care assistance under Title IV-E.
  - No income/asset test



# Foster Youth Health Coverage

- **AHCCCS Young Adult Transitional Insurance Program (YATI)** - American Indians who were enrolled in Medicaid before they aged out of Tribal foster care will now have the option of enrolling in the YATI program and can stay on Medicaid up to age 26, even if they exceed Medicaid income eligibility limits.
- Prior to the passage of the ACA, AI/AN former foster care youth would have to choose to receive their coverage through the AHCCCS American Indian Health Program (AIHP) or one of the AHCCCS managed health care plans.



# Tribal Former Foster Youth Workgroup

- December 31, 2014
  - Letter to AHCCCS regarding formation of workgroup to address health coverage of former foster youth in tribal custody
  
- Workgroup Meetings
  - March, April, May 2015
  - Tribal, State, ITCA & ACOIHC participants
  
- July 14, 2015
  - Workgroup recommendations submitted to AHCCCS
  
- September 9, 2015
  - AHCCCS response





# Workgroup Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1** - Application for Medicaid Benefits (Electronic & Paper)
  - Add question: “Was anyone in Tribal Foster Care in Arizona on his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday?”
- **AHCCCS Status:**
  - Question has been submitted for addition to both HEA Plus and paper application.
  - HEA Plus requires programming and system change request.
  - YATI determination – manual work-around will be used until the revisions to the electronic application and the paper application are completed.





# Workgroup Recommendations

- **Recommendation 2** – Develop a Cover Page for the Application for Benefits (Paper)
  - Clearly identifies youth transitioning from Tribal foster care placement
  - Not mandatory, but reduces confusion of the ADES Family Assistance Administration staff in making an eligibility decision.
  
- **AHCCCS Status:**
  - Cover page and instructions have been revised based on comments from the Workgroup.



# Workgroup Recommendations

- **Recommendation 3** – DES/FAA Central Unit process all former foster care youth Medicaid applications
  - FAA will provide timely approval of Medicaid applications for foster youth aging out of state or Tribal foster care
  - Develop a system to send alerts to Tribal case managers regarding youth close to aging out
  
- **AHCCCS Status**
  - Research & Analysis Unit at DES FAA currently completes these determinations for DCS youth & agreed to complete for Tribal youth aging out of foster care.
  - System alert would require significant system changes and programming – needs to be evaluated.



# Workgroup Recommendations

- **Recommendation 4 - Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) – Tribal Application**
  - Create new form (1097-T) for Tribal youth aging out of foster care
- **AHCCCS Status**
  - New form (1097-T) has been finalized.
  - Draft submitted to ITCA for review – August 2015
  - Comments/questions from ITCA and Tribal Social Services Workgroup submitted to AHCCCS – September 2015





# Workgroup Recommendations

- **Recommendation 5 - Medicaid Eligibility Manual**
  - Amend appropriate sections to include Medicaid eligibility of youth in and aging out of tribal foster care
  
- **AHCCCS Status**
  - All policy sections have been revised in the manual and submitted for publication.
  - First draft of procedures completed.
  - Process for referrals to DES/FAA Research & Analysis to be completed – when final, will be submitted for addition to policy manual.





# Workgroup Recommendations

- **Recommendation 6 - Former Foster Youth – Self Attestation**
  - Allow self attestation by former foster youth.
  - Tribal Social Services – lack infrastructure for verification
  
- **AHCCCS Status**
  - Not to be implemented
  - Primarily due to incorrect responses on Medicaid applications
  - If unable to verify electronically, DES & AHCCCS will verify through research and through telephone contacts
  - AHCCCS proposes to use current verification process.



# Workgroup Recommendations

- **Recommendation 7** - Information Dissemination & Training
  - Workgroup to develop and implement dissemination and training plan.
  - Training should target State, Tribal, IHS, Urban programs, etc.
- **AHCCCS Status**
  - AHCCCS supports the ongoing efforts of the workgroup to ensure agreed upon changes and enhancements are implemented smoothly...that staff receive information and training needed to ensure success of project.
  - Workgroup meeting to be scheduled.

# ACA Training Project Staff

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