

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
 North Carolina Medicaid
 Division of Health Benefits
FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S MEDICAID MANUAL

MA-3233-B

FORMER FOSTER CARE CHILDREN (MFC) ANY STATE
ISSUED EFFECTIVE 05/05/2025 CHANGE NO. 04-25

I. INTRODUCTION

Effective January 1, 2023, the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act, Pub. L. No. 115-271, expanded eligibility to individuals who were in foster care from other states as well as simplified the enrollment process and eligibility determinations for a former foster care applicant/beneficiary (a/b).

This section provides North Carolina Medicaid eligibility requirements for a former foster care a/b who aged out of foster care in **ANY STATE on or after January 1, 2023**. For the purposes of this policy, "state" refers to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories of American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

II. POLICY OVERVIEW

A. Former Foster Care - North Carolina

An a/b who turned 18 on or before December 31, 2022, and were in foster care in the State of North Carolina on their 18th birthday may be eligible for Medicaid for Former Foster Care Children (MFC). The caseworker must determine:

1. If the a/b was under age 26 when they aged out of foster care in North Carolina and
2. If the a/b was enrolled in NC Medicaid at the time they aged out.
3. Refer to Medicaid guidelines in policy section MA-3233-A, Former Foster Care Children (MFC) North Carolina, when determining eligibility for this a/b.

B. Former Foster Care - Any State

An a/b who turned 18 on or after January 1, 2023, and were in foster care in **ANY** State on their 18th birthday, may be eligible for MFC.

Evaluate this a/b using this policy section, MA-3233-B, Medicaid for Former Foster Care (MFC) Any State, regardless of eligibility for any other full mandatory Medicaid program.

III. POLICY PRINCIPLES

An a/b may have been enrolled in Medicaid and aged out of foster care between the ages of 18 and 21 in states outside of North Carolina.

- In North Carolina, the age for aging out of foster care is 18.
- Other states may have elected a different age, up to age 21.

Note: It is the agency's responsibility to contact the other state to confirm that state's age requirement if the information is not readily available. (Refer to the [National Directory of Contacts](#))

IV. APPLICATION

A. Financial Requirement

Eligibility for MFC is without regard to resources or income through the month the a/b turns age 26.

B. Non-Financial Requirements

The a/b must:

1. Have turned 18 on or after January 1, 2023,
2. Attest to being enrolled in Medicaid while in foster care in any state,
3. Aged out of foster care between ages 18-21,
4. Have not reached their 26th birthday (see VI. below for a/b who turn age 26), and
5. Meet NC Medicaid state residency and citizenship/immigration requirements.

C. Program Evaluation

1. Evaluate without regard to income and resources.
2. If the applicant attests to being Former Foster Care & enrolled in Medicaid while in foster care in any state:
 - a. Evaluate for MFC prior to any MAGI or NON-MAGI program/category.
 - b. Do not request additional information to determine eligibility in other mandatory programs.

D. Application Process

1. **An application is required** for former foster care children:
 - a. Who aged out of foster care in any state outside of North Carolina or
 - b. Who requests to re-enroll in Medicaid due to a break in coverage.
2. **Accept self-attestation for all MFC eligibility criteria, except citizenship and immigration status.**
3. **DO NOT** delay processing the application while pending verification(s) for other applicants in the household.
4. It is critical that the a/b's correct information is entered into NC FAST to get the appropriate determination. This includes:
 - a. Former foster care evidence and
 - b. The a/b's correct date of birth.

Refer to [NC FAST Help Job Aid](#), MAGI - Former Foster Care Children (MFC).

E. Foster Care Verification

1. Review NC FAST case record and benefit history to determine if the a/b:
 - a. Was enrolled in foster care on their 18th birthday or
 - b. Previously attested to being enrolled in foster care in any state.
2. Request only the verifications needed to determine eligibility for MFC.
 - a. Contact the other state to verify that state's age requirement if it is not readily available.
 - b. Do not request verifications for the a/b that relates to eligibility for other mandatory programs, unless the a/b is ineligible for MFC.
 - c. If the MFC a/b is a parent/caretaker or is financially responsible for another household member, **only request** verifications needed to determine eligibility for the other household member.

Example: A parent/caretaker applies for Medicaid for themselves and their 2-year-old child.

The parent/caretaker applicant states they:

- Were in foster care in another state and
- Enrolled in that state's Medicaid program.
- Turn 18 after January 1, 2023, and
- Aged out of foster care in another state before moving to North Carolina.
- Will receive their first check of \$1600.00 in two weeks.

The caseworker evaluates the parent for MFC without regard to income and resources. The a/b is eligible for MFC because they:

- Turned age 18 on or after January 1, 2023,
- Were enrolled in Medicaid while in foster care in any state prior to aging out of such foster care and
- Meet all the eligibility requirements in policy section MA-3233-B

The caseworker evaluates the 2-year-old child for Medicaid. Then sends the parent/caretaker a DHB-5097:

- Requesting income and
- The other necessary verifications to evaluate the 2-year-old child for Medicaid.

F. MFC Eligibility

If the a/b is eligible for Medicaid for former foster care (any state):

1. Document in the case notes that the method of verification was self-attestation,
2. Authorize MFC, and
3. Send appropriate notice(s).

G. Retroactive Eligibility

1. Evaluate the retroactive period to determine if the a/b would have been eligible for MFC. If the a/b:
 - a. Turned 18 on or after January 31, 2023, refer to eligibility requirements in section IV. above to evaluate retroactive Medicaid.

- b. Refer to MA-3233-A for an a/b who turned 18 on or before December 31, 2022.
2. If the a/b is eligible during the retroactive period,
 - a. Authorize Medicaid for 1, 2 or 3 months, as appropriate,
 - b. Document the case record, and
 - c. Send the appropriate notice(s).

H. Continued Eligibility

1. Continuous eligibility applies through the month that the a/b turns 26.
2. The beneficiary remains eligible unless there is a valid Change in Circumstances. (Refer to V. Below)
 - a. Authorize ongoing eligibility for appropriate months, and
 - b. Send appropriate notice(s).
3. There must be an attempt to verify the a/b's residency at least annually.
4. A DSS-8110 Notice of Modification, Termination, or Continuation of Public Assistance must be sent annually to notify the beneficiary of continued eligibility.

I. Pregnancy

When a pregnant woman is receiving MFC Medicaid (or pregnancy reported), the a/b remains in MFC.

1. Refer to [NC FAST Help Job Aid](#) MAGI- Editing/End Dating Pregnancy Evidence.
2. **DO NOT** send the NCF -20020 Medical Assistance Renewal Notice or the DHB-5097 Request for Information.

J. Notification and Policy References

Refer to [MA-3430, Notice and Hearings Process](#) for policy regarding timely notification.

V. CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES (CIC)

A. Eligibility

Beneficiaries continue to be eligible without regard to a change in circumstances except for the following:

1. The a/b turns 26,
 2. Is no longer a North Carolina resident,
 3. No longer holds a valid immigration status,
 4. Reports incarceration in a federal or state prison, county, local jail or juvenile justice facility. (Refer to Medicaid policy section [MA-3360 Living Arrangement](#),
 - a. If the a/b is currently enrolled in MFC, reports incarceration in a public institution and has not reached their 26th birthday:
 - i. Suspend the case and
 - ii. Send the appropriate notice(s).
 - b. If an applicant is incarcerated in a public institution, meets MFC eligibility requirements and is determined eligible for MFC:
 - i. Approved the application
 - ii. Suspend the case and
 - iii. Send the appropriate notice(s).
- The month the a/b turns 26, evaluate them for all other program(s).
- c. If the a/b reports state or local incarceration, suspend the case and send the appropriate notice(s).
 5. The beneficiary or authorized representative requests termination of eligibility in writing.
 6. The beneficiary is deceased.

Note: If an a/b is pregnant while enrolled in MFC and turns 26 prior to the end of the 12-month post-partum period, NC FAST will transfer the a/b to MPW for the remainder of the post-partum period.

B. Ineligibility

When changes are reported or discovered, and the a/b is ineligible for MFC:

1. Evaluate for all other Medicaid programs, and
2. Send appropriate notice(s).

C. Reduction of Benefits

1. Benefits may not be reduced or terminated until after the DSS-8110 notification expires.
2. Refer to [MA-3430, Notice and Hearings Process](#).