



## Information for families and providers on Foster Care, Adoption and KanCare

### 1. What children/youth in foster care may receive KanCare/Medicaid?

#### a. Mandatory groups

- Any child placed into the foster care system will receive KanCare/Kansas Medicaid as long as they are in a Medicaid eligible organization (i.e. not eligible if in juvenile detention) ([PPM 5918](#))
- Young adults ages 18-26 who were in Kansas Foster Care and out of home placement **on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday**. ([PPM 7100, Section 7](#))
- As of 1/1/2023 youth who age out of custody in a state other than Kansas can apply for Aged Out Foster Care Medical. The following conditions must be met.
  - Youth was in the custody of the state on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - Youth was in out of home placement on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - Youth turned 18 on or after 1/1/2023.

*NOTE: While the standard age in Kansas is 18, several states allow youth to continue in foster care through 19, 20, or 21 years of age.*

#### b. Citizenship

- Young adults ages 18-26 who were in Kansas Foster Care and out of home placement on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday must meet [citizenship requirements](#) for Kansas Family Medical.

### 2. Program Eligibility:

#### a. How do children/youth in foster care receive KanCare in the Foster Care Program?

1. When the court places a child in the custody of the State.
2. When the paperwork is received from the court, DCF sets up foster care medical.
  - DCF has eligibility workers across the state that handle KanCare eligibility for children/youth placed in foster care instead of the KanCare Clearinghouse.

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## b. Who applies for KanCare after a child is adopted from foster care?

When a child/youth is adopted from foster care, KanCare/Kansas Medicaid will be set up if KanCare is part of the negotiated adoption support.

That coverage is good until the child turns 18 or graduates from high school, whichever is later. At that time, you have the option to add the youth on the parent's medical insurance, apply for Marketplace health insurance, get health insurance through work, or the youth can apply for KanCare with the KanCare Clearinghouse.

If there are problems with eligibility while the child/youth is on KanCare/Medicaid the family should contact Department of Children and Families at [DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov](mailto:DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov).

If the foster care family or youth have a problem with the KanCare/Medicaid rollover, they may get assistance from DCF.

1. Foster care case manager
2. Case manager supervisor
3. Case management agency director
4. Department for Children and Families (DCF)  
[DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov](mailto:DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov)

## c. Who is responsible to apply for Medicaid/KanCare if the child/youth returns home or is released from custody?

If the children/youth are reunified with their parents or released from custody, the Foster Care agency case worker has the responsibility to assist the family with applying for KanCare/Kansas Medicaid. The family is responsible to get the application turned in.

The KanCare Clearinghouse may be contacted if there is a question about reinstatement, which may have a time limitation. It is best to do this as soon as possible.

Note: If the child leaves custody before 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, they have coverage for rest of the month. If the child leaves custody after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, they are covered for the remaining month and the next month.

The DCF case manager may be contacted for assistance if the family is having trouble getting their child back on KanCare, they may also email [DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov](mailto:DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov).

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**d. If children/youth in foster care are having problems with KanCare, who can the placement resource call for help?**

1. Foster care agency case manager
2. Case manager supervisor
3. Case management agency director
4. Department for Children and Families (DCF)  
[DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov](mailto:DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov).

**e. If a placement resource is having trouble getting the services for their child that are needed, who should they contact?**

1. Foster care agency case manager
2. Case manager supervisor
3. Case management agency director
4. Department for Children and Families (DCF)  
[DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov](mailto:DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov).

### 3. Services:

**a. Who can take children/youth in foster care to medical appointments?**

- The placement or residential providers (including foster parents) may take the child to medical appointments.
- The case manager may also go to medical appointment.
- In some circumstances, a biological parent may take a child to a medical appointment when appropriate and approved.

**b. Do foster care parents need approval from foster care agency to take children/youth in foster care to medical appointments or for various treatments (i.e. vaccinations, back to school checkups, etc.)?**

- The foster care parent works with the foster agency case manager to arrange the child's medical needs.
- The foster care parent will have paperwork (paper medical card) that allows the foster care parent to take a child to a medical appointment.
- The foster care parent should be listed as a medical representative in the KanCare medical system. If there is a problem, contact DCF at [DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov](mailto:DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov)
- Biological parents may voice concerns and ask questions about medical procedures (i.e., vaccines, appointments, surgeries). They would contact the Foster Care Agency case manager.

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## 4. Are there income guidelines for the KanCare/Medical programs? (i.e. Adoption subsidy or adults aging out of foster care?)

There are no income eligibility requirements for foster care, adoption, or young adults who aged out of foster care.

## 5. How to avoid losing services (Maintaining Services)?

- Children/youth in foster care will not receive review forms and are not subject to financial reviews. As long as the case is active, the coverage remains in place.
- For Adoption Medical as long you have adoption subsidy you have Medicaid.
- Adoption Medical is connected to the negotiated Adoption Support. Please note, you can still receive Adoption Medical even if the Adoption Subsidy is time limited and later reduced to zero or if the original Subsidy amount is zero as well.
- Adoption subsidy continues as long as the child is in school full-time, graduates high school, or turns 18, whichever is later.

## 6. Transitioning prior to release of custody (or 18 years old)

Transition planning for children/youth in foster care may begin at 14 years of age. The child's case management team should always be involved in this process to ensure this is happening

### a. Transitional Living programs; youth may start the programs before turning 18.

- Foster Care Transition Support is a time limited service for youth released from the custody of the Secretary at age 18 or older who are not released to a permanent connection through reintegration, adoption or custodianship. This service provides housing and other support such as transportation for a limited period of time during the youth's transition to college, training program, or employment. Services may begin the month the youth is released from custody. ([PPM 7212](#))
- For more information on the Foster Care Transition program, contact the Foster Care case manager and reference [PPM 7212](#).

## 7. Independent Living programs

When youth turn 18, they may still be eligible for independent living programs. Also eligible for aged out medical, tuition assistance, and other benefits tied to education and/or employment.

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Resources for Independent Living Programs:

- [DCF Independent Living Information](#)
- [Independent Living Brochure](#)
- [Foster Care Tuition Waiver Program Application](#)
- More [State and National Resources](#) available on the DCF website

## 8. What other services and/or programs are available for families that adopt children from foster care? Other Foster Care Resources:

- [Adoption Assistance brochure](#)
- [Adopt Kansas Kids website](#)
- Post Adoption Resource Center K-PARC; <https://www.adoptkiskids.org/>
- Kansas Post Adoption Resource Center or K-PARC; [K-PARC Resources](#)
- [Adoption information from DCF](#)

## 9. What benefits/services are available to children/youth in foster care, parents, and foster care providers/placements in addition to KanCare?

- Each Foster Agency has their own programs and services; talk with the child's case manager for more specific information.
- Two programs that are part of KanCare but may not be as widely known: [One Care Kansas](#). [Home and Community Based Services \(HCBS\)](#).
- [Community Mental Health Centers \(CMHC\)](#)
- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)  
[https://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/download/CLINIC\\_LIST\\_FQHC\\_SN\\_RHC.pdf](https://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/download/CLINIC_LIST_FQHC_SN_RHC.pdf)

## 10. Who do I contact when I have questions?

### a. Foster Care Eligibility questions - Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)

1. Contact your local DCF office and ask for a foster care eligibility worker.
  1. Foster care agency case manager
  2. Case manager supervisor
  3. Case management agency director
  4. Department for Children and Families (DCF)  
[DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov](mailto:DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov)

### b. Medicaid Benefits and Services questions -

**Managed Care Organization** – For questions about specific benefits, services, and service providers; you should contact the MCO Care Coordinator.

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- **Aetna:** (1-855-221-5656) (Relay:711)
- **Sunflower:** (1-877-644-4623) (TTY: 1-888-282-6428)
- **United Healthcare:** (1-877-542-9238) (Relay: 711)

## c. Further Help –

- Contact DCF at: [DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov](mailto:DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov)
- **KanCare Ombudsman’s office** –For further assistance the KanCare Ombudsman’s office helps in resolving problems regarding services, coverage, access and rights.
  - **Phone:** 1-855-643-8180
  - **Relay:** 711
  - **Email:** [KanCare.Ombudsman@ks.gov](mailto:KanCare.Ombudsman@ks.gov)

This fact sheet was created in collaboration between the KanCare Ombudsman Office, the Kansas Department of Children and Families, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.