

## Important Information About Your Healthcare Coverage

**Hey You!** You may be eligible for Health Insurance! Now that we have your attention, please read on for more information about the **why**, or you can skip to the section where it says, “**Good, Sign Me Up!**”

Everyone is talking about the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and you may be telling yourself that it does not mean anything to you. What if we told you that the Affordable Care Act has a special piece just for former foster youth? Do we still have your attention?

The ACA makes Medicaid/Medical Assistance (MA) available to former foster youth, ages 18 to 26, even if you are working! There is an important rule though:

- Only youth who were in foster care on or after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday are eligible.
  - **What if I signed myself out of foster care when I was 18?** Great question! You are still eligible!
  - **What if I aged-out of foster care when I was 21?** Another great question! You are still eligible!
  - **What if I am 18 and still in foster care?** The same health insurance you had when you were 17 is still in effect. You can speak with your caseworker for more information.
  - **Who isn't eligible?**
    - Any person who was in foster care, but left before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
    - Any person who did not receive medical assistance while in foster care.

### **Good, Sign Me Up!**

#### **If you have already left foster care:**

- Apply online through COMPASS at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us), or
- Call the PA Consumer Service Center at 1-866-550-4355 to apply or ask questions.
- You can find additional information on what all of this means at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) and [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us). You can always contact your caseworker, independent living coordinator, or the county agency you were last in contact with.

#### **If you are still in foster care:**

- Talk to your caseworker to learn how you may be eligible to continue to receive health insurance coverage with no break in coverage. You will continue to receive MA benefits, including behavioral health care services, prescription and dental care.

#### **Now that you know about this and are ready to sign up...**

**Make sure to provide all documentation requested by the County Assistance Office (CAO). If you need help getting the documents you need, please talk to your caseworker.**

**Always keep your address up to date!** It is really important to remember that you will need to participate in an annual renewal process. Your local CAO will contact you to renew your MA health insurance coverage. Therefore, it is important that you provide the local CAO with any changes in address so they can send you a benefit renewal form and you can continue to receive health insurance coverage through MA. You can also create an online account on COMPASS, [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us), to monitor your benefits and receive notices online.

**Also, keep this letter in a safe place. You can always come back to it if you forget where to go for more information or if you decide to apply.**