

Planning for Adult Life activities, events, and materials are conducted and developed in partnership with

The Arc of New Jersey with funding from the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities

THE FOLLOWING IS A SPECIAL NOTICE FROM DDD:

Medicaid Extension for Young Adults in Foster Care

Under the new Federal Health Care Law, most young adults who have aged out of New Jersey's foster care system may be eligible for Medicaid until they turn 26. Effective January 1, 2014, any young adult under age 26 who, as of his or her 18th or 21st birthday, was in foster care AND was enrolled in Medicaid may be eligible for a new Medicaid Extension for Young Adults program until s/he turns 26, regardless of income.

This rule is intended to put former foster youth on equal footing with other young adults who can remain covered under their parents' or guardian's health insurance through age 26.

Unfortunately, enrollment on the Medicaid Extension for Young Adults can potentially create a problem for youth who are in foster care and have an intellectual or developmental disability.

Under the Division of Developmental Disabilities' (DDD) new Medicaid-based, fee-for-service system, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities 18 years and older must be Medicaid eligible in order to receive services and supports through DDD. Under Medicaid rules, an individual cannot be enrolled on more than one Medicaid program. Therefore, if an individual is already enrolled on the specialized Medicaid Extension for Young Adults program, s/he will not be able to enroll on one of the three Medicaid programs that are acceptable under DDD rules (SSI/Medicaid, NJ Workability, or NJ Care-Special Medicaid Program).

In order to avoid a delay or discontinuation of DD services, youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who are in foster care, and who anticipate the need for services and supports through DDD, are advised to apply for SSI Medicaid* ("regular" Medicaid) rather than the Medicaid Extension for Young Adults.

**Applying for SSI is highly recommended as soon as possible after the 18th birthday. The [Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI) program pays benefits to adults with disabilities (after their 18th birthday) who have limited income and resources. Individuals with I/DD will obtain Medicaid through their SSI eligibility.*

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