

# Foster Care, Adoption and KanCare

## 1. What Foster Care children/youth may receive KanCare/Medicaid?

### a. Mandatory groups

- Any child coming 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 have aged out of Foster Care (were in Kansas Foster Care and out of home placement **on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.**) ([PPM 7100, Section 7](#))

### b. Citizenship

Aged out youth must meet [citizenship requirements](#) for Kansas Family Medical.

## 2. Program Eligibility:

### a. How does a child get on KanCare in the Foster Care Program?

1. When the court places a child in the custody of the State.
2. When the paperwork comes from the court, the DCF sets up foster care medical.
  - DCF has eligibility workers across the state that handle KanCare eligibility for Foster Care instead of the KanCare Clearinghouse.
  - To find out information about Foster Care Eligibility, contact the child's Foster Care Agency case manager.

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

When the foster care child/youth is adopted KanCare/Kansas Medicaid will be set up if it is part of the adoption contract.

That coverage is good until the child turns 18 or graduates from high school, whichever is later. At that time, the child will need to go on the parent's medical insurance, or the youth will need to apply for KanCare with the KanCare Clearinghouse.

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If there are problems with eligibility while the child/youth is on adoption medical, 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 Medicaid rollover, they may get assistance from DCF.

The contact order would be:

- Foster care case manager
- Case manager supervisor
- Case management agency director
- 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 they return home or released of custody, the Foster Care agency case worker should be helping the family with applying for KanCare/Kansas Medicaid. The family is responsible to get the application turned in.

The parent can call the KanCare Clearinghouse to see if they can get the child reinstated. There may a time limitation on reinstatement. 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.

If the family is having trouble getting child back on KanCare, they can contact DCF case manager for assistance or email at [DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov](mailto:DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov).

## d. If a foster child is having problems with KanCare, who can the foster parent call for help?

The contact order would be:

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

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- e. If a foster care family is having trouble getting the services for the foster child that are needed, who should they contact?

The contact order would be the same as listed above.

## 3. Services:

- a. Who can take a foster care child to medical appointments?

- The foster care parents are able to 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 a foster care child 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 foster care 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.

## 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 aged out youth.

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

- For Foster Care children/youth, they 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 as you have adoption subsidy you have Medicaid.
- Adoption Medical is connected to Adoption Subsidy. 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 (meaning high school) or turns 18, whichever is later.

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

Transition planning for foster care youth may begin at 14 years of age. This can be done with Foster Care parents, biological parents and the agency case manager.

### 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 may still be eligible for independent living programs. Also eligible for aged out medical, tuition assistance, and other things tied to education and/or employment.

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

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## 8. What other services and/or programs are available for families that adopt children in 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 foster care children, parents, and foster care parents 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. Start with Foster Care case manager.
2. Contact your local DCF office and ask for a foster care eligibility worker.

The contact order would be:

- Foster care case manager
- Case manager supervisor
- Case management agency director
- 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 and services, and who can provide those services, contact the MCO Care Coordinator.

- **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)

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### c. Further Help –

- Contact DCF at: [DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov](mailto:DCF.PPSMedicaidAssistance@ks.gov)
- **KanCare Ombudsman's office** – When other assistance is not working out, 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 partnership with the Kansas Department of Children and Families.