

Turning 18?.....Here's some important information you should know....

Did you know you may be eligible for MaineCare coverage to age 26?

If you were in foster care in Maine when you turned 18, you are now eligible for continued MaineCare coverage up **to age 26** through the Affordable Care Act (however you must apply every year to continue your coverage. You can go to your local Office of Family Independence or on-line to apply. **Your income and assets and those of anyone in your home is NOT considered in determining Eligibility:**

If questioned about income or assets, you can cite: 10-144 Chapter 332 of the MaineCare Eligibility Manual, Part 3.5: Eligibility Groups Requirements (page 8) which states:

III. Former Foster Care Children

An individual is eligible to enroll in Medicaid if he/she:

- i. Is under age 26;
- ii. Is not eligible for and enrolled in another mandatory Medicaid coverage under 42 CFR subsection 435.110 through 435.118 or 42 CFR subsection 435.20 through 435.145;
- iii. Was in foster care in the State of Maine and was enrolled in Medicaid through the State of Maine at age 18.

The income and assets of the individual (or anyone else in his/her household) is not considered to determine eligibility for the individual.

For Questions, contact a MaineCare Eligibility Specialist at: 1-800-482-0790. To change your Primary Physician or **request a plastic MaineCare Card**, call Membership Services at: **1-800-977-6740**.

Need counseling or supportive services as an adult?

Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS).....1-800-262-2232

Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHS):

Region 1 (Cumberland County (*except Brunswick and Bridgton*) and York County...1-800-269-5208
Region 2 (Androscoggin, Franklin, Oxford Counties and Bridgton).....1-800-675-1828
Region 3 (Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock, Washington Counties).....1-800-963-9491

Who do you want to make medical decisions for you if you are unable?

Beginning at age 18, you have the legal right to designate another trusted individual to make health care treatment decisions on your behalf should you become unable to participate in such decisions. You can choose a *health care proxy* or *healthcare power of attorney*, by completing an **advance directive document**. It's free. Go to: <http://www.caringinfo.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3289>

Do you know what your credit rating is...or if you are a victim of identity theft?

By law, once a year, you can get a free annual credit report. Requests must be submitted to:

- www.annualcreditreport.com, or
- Call 1-877-322-8228, or
- Mail your request to: Annual Credit Report Request Service,
P.O. Box 105283, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

And....Information to assist with the interpretation and education can be found on the Federal Trade Commission's website: www.ftc.gov/freereports

DHHS Financial Supports for College/Training:

Adoption	Permanent Guardianship	Extended Care Agreement
FAFSA—must be completed to access other funds. Financial Aid awarded on a first come/first served basis. Must be completed every year. Must get a PIN before or during the application process. Can apply beginning in Oct. 1 for the following year. (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) Independent Student Status (FAFSA)—through the College Costs Reduction Act, any youth adopted on or after their 13th birthday is considered “independent” on the FAFSA and does not have to provide parent info (income) or signatures. ETV Funds—for youth adopted through Maine’s DHHS on or after their 16th birthday. Must complete FAFSA. College or training program must be accredited. Student must be in good academic standing. Some restrictions apply. Awards vary depending on available funds & student need after other financial aid, scholarships, and student refunds are applied--up to \$5000 per academic year. There is a maximum lifetime limit for ETV of 5 years. Youth who receive ETV funds at age 23 may receive ETV until age 26. Contact Dulcey Laberge 446-4227, Dulcey.laberge@maine.gov Tuition Waiver—youth who were adopted from Maine’s foster care AND whose parents received an adoption subsidy from Maine DHHS at the time of graduation or GED/HiSet can apply for one of the 30 waivers that can be used at State of Maine Universities, Community Colleges, or Maine Maritime. Awarded on first come, first served basis. Must be a Maine resident. Must renew each year. Available for undergraduate degrees only, up to 5 years. Application available March 1. Administered through FAME (www.famemaine.com)	FAFSA—must be completed to access other funds. Financial Aid awarded on a first come/first served basis. Must be completed every year. Must get a PIN before or during the application process. Can apply beginning in Oct. 1 for the following year. (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) Independent Student Status (FAFSA)—through the College Costs Reduction Act, any youth in PG status on or after their 13th birthday is considered “independent” on the FAFSA and does not have to provide parent info (income) or signatures. ETV Funds— for youth in PG through Maine’s DHHS on or after their 16th birthday. Must complete FAFSA. College or training program must be accredited. Student must be in good academic standing. Some restrictions apply. Awards vary depending on available funds & student need after other financial aid, scholarships, and student refunds are applied--up to \$5000 per academic year. There is a maximum lifetime limit for ETV of 5 years. Youth who receive ETV funds at age 23 may receive ETV until age 26. Contact Dulcey Laberge 446-4227, Dulcey.laberge@maine.gov Tuition Waiver— youth who entered Permanency Guardianship from Maine’s foster care AND whose guardian received a Permanency Guardianship subsidy from Maine DHHS at the time of graduation or GED/HiSet can apply for one of the 30 waivers that can be used at State of Maine Universities, Community Colleges, or Maine Maritime. Awarded on first come, first served basis. Must be a Maine resident. Must renew each year. Available for undergraduate degrees only, up to 5 years. Application available March 1. Administered through FAME (www.famemaine.com)	FAFSA—must be completed to access other funds. Financial Aid awarded on a first come/first served basis. Must be completed every year. Must get a PIN before or during the application process. Can apply beginning in Oct. 1 for the following year. (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) Independent Student Status (FAFSA)—through the College Costs Reduction Act, any youth in foster care on or after their 13th birthday is considered “independent” on the FAFSA. ETV Funds— for youth on an Extended Care Agreement Maine’s DHHS. Must complete FAFSA. College or training program must be accredited. Student must be in good academic standing. Some restrictions apply. Awards vary depending on available funds & student need after other financial aid, scholarships, and student refunds are applied--up to \$5000 per academic year. There is a maximum lifetime limit for ETV of 5 years. Youth who receive ETV funds at age 23 may receive ETV until age 26. Contact your local Youth Transition Specialist or Caseworker. Tuition Waiver— youth who were in Maine’s foster care at the time of graduation or GED/HiSet can apply for one of the 30 waivers that can be used at State of Maine Universities, Community Colleges, or Maine Maritime. Awarded on first come, first served basis. Must be a Maine resident. Must renew each year. Available for undergraduate degrees only, up to 5 years. Application available March 1. Administered through FAME (www.famemaine.com) Revised 9/12/23