

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) - FOR INDIVIDUALS FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE  
WHO ARE LIVING IN PENNSYLVANIA

To qualify for health care coverage under the former foster care category, you *may* need to provide verification that you were in foster care and receiving Medicaid/Medical Assistance (MA) on or after age 18. For example, you might be asked to provide copies of court orders and/or a letter from an official agency.

**START HERE: Work with the County Assistance Office (CAO) responsible for processing your health care application.**

In Pennsylvania, this will be the county you say you live in when you submit your application for health care coverage. When you apply for health care coverage, the CAO will assign a caseworker to process your application and ***the CAO caseworker will tell you what, if any, documentation you need to provide.*** If you need to provide any documentation, you will be notified of this in writing from the county CAO. It is your responsibility to get any documentation the CAO caseworker requests and provide it to the CAO caseworker.

**If the county CAO requests former foster care documentation from you and you don't have it:**

**First:**

Reach out to **the Child Welfare Agency responsible for you while you were in foster care.** This is the child welfare agency that had court jurisdiction of you when you left foster care. This agency should have your foster care records and be able to provide you with the documentation you need. Your last caseworker, their supervisor, the independent living coordinator or the intake department is a good place to start.

**Second:**

If for some reason you can't contact the Child Welfare Agency responsible for you while you were in foster care, contact the **County Child Welfare Agency in Pennsylvania where you currently live.** The independent living coordinator or the intake department is a good place to start. Explain that you were previously in foster care and ask them to help you secure the documentation that you need. Providing them with all of the information they ask for will help them help you.

***If you have access to a computer,*** you can find the phone number for the county Child Welfare Agency in Pennsylvania that you need by visiting the following link:

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/findfacilsandlocs/countychildrenandyouthdirectory/index.htm>

Under Service Code select "County Children and Youth Agencies"

**Third:**

While it is your responsibility to obtain any verification requested by the CAO, if you tried but are still unable to obtain the verification you need, the CAO caseworker may be able to help. Providing them with all of the information they ask for will help them help you.

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You may also contact the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families at **(717) 787-3984**. The office is open Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. When calling please indicate that you are calling for help with securing documentation related to your former foster care status so that you can be connected to a person who can help you. Primary contacts in this office include:

**Ms. Lauren Cummings**

State Foster Care Manager for Pennsylvania  
Direct Phone: (717) 787-7759

**Mr. David Derbes**

State Independent Living Coordinator for Pennsylvania  
Direct Phone: (717) 705-2911

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) - FOR PROFESSIONALS IN PENNSYLVANIA  
ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE IN PENNSYLVANIA

**The documentation required should be in the Electronic Client Information System (eCIS) used by the Office of Income Maintenance.** Caseworkers with the County Assistance Office (CAO) will have access to this system and the information it contains.

**If the CAO cannot locate the information in eCIS, contact the County Child Welfare Agency in Pennsylvania responsible for the individual while they were in foster care.** This is the child welfare agency that had court jurisdiction of the individual when they left foster care. This agency should have the individual's foster care records and be able to provide the documentation needed. The last caseworker, their supervisor, the independent living coordinator or the intake department is a good place to start. A list of county Children and Youth Agencies can be accessed by visiting the following link:

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/findfacilsandlocs/countychildrenandyouthdirectory/index.htm>

Under Service Code select "County Children and Youth Agencies"

**FOR PROFESSIONALS IN PENNSYLVANIA ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE IN OTHER STATES**

If the individual left foster care in another state, **contact the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance:**

**Phone: (717) 772-5505**  
**Address:** Interstate Compact Office  
Department of Public Welfare  
Interstate Compact Unit  
Hillcrest 2nd FL., PO Box 2675  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675  
**Director:** Mr. Jason McCrea  
Phone: (717) 772-5506

This office provides technical assistance on issues pertaining to the administration of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA). These issues include the provision of Medicaid to eligible children who move to or are placed in a new state, title IV-E and state-funded adoption assistance, and the effect of new federal legislation on the administration of the compact. This office can assist with connecting professionals in Pennsylvania to the applicable out-of-state contact.

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If you have questions or require additional assistance, please contact the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families at **(717) 787-3984**. When calling please indicate that you are calling for help with securing documentation related to an individual's former foster care status so that you can be connected to a person who can help you. Primary contacts in this office include:

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