



# Medi-Cal Coverage until Age 26: A Lifeline for Former Foster Youth

The **Affordable Care Act** provides Medicaid up to age **26** to youth who “age out” of foster care.

The State is the legal parent of foster youth



**EQUITY:**  
The ACA ensures former foster youth have health care just like young adults who can stay on a parent’s insurance until age 26.



Children & youth enter foster care due to abuse or neglect so health care is especially critical.




**2,500–5,500**

Young adults **exit** foster care at age 18 or older **each year in CA.** Many lack a solid support network to navigate the transition to adulthood.



Over **18,000** former foster youth currently benefit from Medi-Cal.



(Medicaid is called Medi-Cal in California)

Health Care




Cutting off Medi-Cal coverage for former foster youth would create a health care **cliff** for this vulnerable population.

**Former Foster Youth Voice**

“ At 18, most young adults are gearing up for their first year in college or still getting on their feet and living with family. Aging out of the foster care system meant that I was taking complete responsibility for everything. Thanks to the ACA, health care was one less thing to worry about. ”

#Coveredtil26



#ProtectOurCare

