



Minnesota Health Care Programs

Eligibility Policy Manual

This document provides information about additions and revisions to the Minnesota Department of Human Service's Minnesota Health Care Programs Eligibility Policy Manual.

Manual Letter #23.1

January 1, 2023

Manual Letter #23.1

This manual letter lists new and revised policy for the Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) Eligibility Policy Manual (EPM) as of January 1, 2023. The effective date of new or revised policy may not be the same date the information is added to the EPM. Refer to the Summary of Changes to identify when the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) implemented the policy.

I. Summary of Changes

This manual letter contains new and revised Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility policy to incorporate DHS [Bulletin #21-21-01, DHS Announces Automatic Medical Assistance Eligibility for Children in Foster Care or Receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance \(NKA\)](#). Bulletin #21-21-01 announced that effective January 1, 2021, all children in foster care or who receive NKA are automatically eligible for MA without an application or financial eligibility requirements.

Additionally, [Chapter 2.5.6 Medical Assistance Northstar Care for Children](#) of the EPM was reorganized and renamed to create separate sections for children in foster care and children who receive NKA. Clarifications were made throughout, including the requirement to verify citizenship, immigration status, and Social Security number. Reference to a child's eligibility for Title IV-E was removed because all children in foster care or who receive NKA are now eligible for MA without an application or financial eligibility requirements. The role of agency representatives to act on a child's behalf was also clarified to ensure children in foster care and children who receive NKA are enrolled in MA for the duration of the foster care placement or receipt of NKA benefits.

In bulletin #21-21-01, the term automatic was used to describe the MA eligibility for this population, but has been removed from the new EPM foster care and NKA sections because the term does not accurately describe the eligibility rules for this population. Children in foster care and children who receive NKA are eligible for MA without application or financial eligibility requirements, but worker action is still required to establish MA eligibility and there are certain non-financial eligibility requirements for this population.

II. Documentation of Changes

This section of the manual letter documents all changes made to an existing section. Deleted text is displayed with strikethrough formatting and newly added text is displayed with underline formatting. Links to the revised and archived versions of the section are also provided.

- A. [EPM Home Page](#)
- B. [Section 2.1.2.2.1 Medical Assistance \(MA\) Citizenship](#)
- C. [Section 2.1.2.5 MA Social Security Number](#)

- D. [Section 2.5 MA for Certain Populations](#)
- E. [Section 2.5.6 MA for Children Receiving Northstar Adoption Assistance \(NAA\), Northstar Kinship Assistance \(NKA\), and Children in Foster Care \(FC\)](#)
- F. [Section 2.5.6.1.4.2 Northstar Title IV-E and Medicare](#)
- G. [Section 2.5.6.2 Medical Assistance for Children Receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance \(MA-NKA\)](#)
- H. [Section 2.5.6.2.1 MA Northstar Title IV-E FC and KA General Requirements](#)
- I. [Section 2.5.6.2.1.1 MA Northstar Title IV-E FC and KA Mandatory Verifications](#)
- J. [Section 2.5.6.2.2 Title IV-E FC and KA Non-Financial Eligibility](#)
- K. [Section 2.5.6.2.2.1 MA Northstar Title IV-E and KA Basis of Eligibility](#)
- L. [Section 2.5.6.2.3 MA Northstar Title IV-E FC and KA Financial Eligibility](#)
- M. [Section 2.5.6.2.4 MA Northstar Title IV-E FC and KA Post-Eligibility](#)
- N. [Section 2.5.6.2.4.1 MA-NKA Health Care Delivery \(New Section\)](#)
- O. [Section 2.5.6.2.4.2 MA-NKA Renewals \(New Section\)](#)
- P. [Section 2.5.6.3 MA Northstar Non-Title IV-E FC and KA](#)
- Q. [Section 2.5.6.3.1 MA-Foster Care \(FC\) General Requirements \(New Section\)](#)
- R. [Section 2.5.6.3.1.1 MA-FC Mandatory Verifications \(New Section\)](#)
- S. [Section 2.5.6.3.2 MA-FC Non-Financial Eligibility \(New Section\)](#)
- T. [Section 2.5.6.3.2.1 MA-FC Basis of Eligibility \(New Section\)](#)
- U. [Section 2.5.6.3.3 MA-FC Financial Eligibility \(New Section\)](#)
- V. [Section 2.5.6.3.4 MA-FC Post Eligibility \(New Section\)](#)
- W. [Section 2.5.6.3.4.1 MA-FC Health Care Delivery \(New Section\)](#)
- X. [Section 2.5.6.3.4.2 MA-FC Renewals \(New Section\)](#)

A. EPM Home Page

Minnesota Health Care Programs

Eligibility Policy Manual

Welcome to the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Minnesota Health Care Programs Eligibility Policy Manual (EPM). This manual contains the official DHS eligibility policies for the Minnesota Health Care Programs including Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare. Minnesota Health Care Programs policies are based on the state and federal laws and regulations that govern the programs. See Legal Authority section for more information.

The EPM is for use by applicants, enrollees, health care eligibility workers and other interested parties. It provides accurate and timely information about policy only. The EPM does not provide procedural instructions or systems information that health care eligibility workers need to use.

Manual Letters

DHS issues periodic manual letters to announce changes in the EPM. These letters document updated sections and describe any policy changes.

[MHCP EPM Manual Letter #23.1, January 1, 2023](#)

2022 Manual Letters

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #22.5, December 1, 2022

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #22.4, September 1, 2022

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #22.3, June 1, 2022

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #22.2, March 1, 2022

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #22.1, January 1, 2022

2021 Manual Letter

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #21.1, January 1, 2021

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #21.2, March 1, 2021

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #21.3, June 1, 2021

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #21.4, October 1, 2021

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #21.5, November 1, 2021

2020 Manual Letter

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #20.1, March 1, 2020

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #20.2, June 1, 2020

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #20.3, September 1, 2020

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #20.4, December 1, 2020

2019 Manual Letter

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #19.1, January 1, 2019

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #19.2, April 1, 2019

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #19.3 June 1, 2019

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #19.4, August 7, 2019

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #19.5, September 1, 2019

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #19.6, November 1, 2019

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #19.7. December 1, 2019

2018 Manual Letters

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #18.1, January 1, 2018

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #18.2, April 1, 2018

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #18.3, June 1, 2018

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #18.4, September 1, 2018

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #18.5, December 1, 2018

2017 Manual Letters

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #17.1, April 1, 2017

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #17.2, June 1, 2017

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #17.3, August 1, 2017

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #17.4, September 1, 2017

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #17.5, December 1, 2017

2016 Manual Letters

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #16.1, June 1, 2016

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #16.2, August 1, 2016

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #16.3, September 1, 2016

MHCP EPM Manual Letter #16.4, December 1, 2016

Bulletins

DHS bulletins provide information and direction to county and tribal health and human services agencies and other DHS business partners. According to DHS policy, bulletins more than two years old are obsolete. Anyone can subscribe to the Bulletins mailing list.

A DHS Bulletin supersedes information in this manual until incorporated into this manual. The following bulletins have not yet been incorporated into the EPM:

- ~~Bulletin #21-21-01, DHS Announces Automatic Medical Assistance Eligibility for Children in Foster Care or Receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance~~
- Bulletin #21-21-09, DHS Explains Changes to the Evaluation of Transfers to Pooled Trusts for MA-LTC and AC
- Bulletin #21-21-13 DHS Explains Changes to the Evaluation of Client-Funded Irrevocable Trusts for MA-LTC and AC
- Bulletin #22-21-02 DHS Announces the Increase in Medical Assistance Spenddown Standard People.

COVID-19 Emergency Bulletins: These bulletins announce temporary policy modifications, which supersede policies in this manual, during the COVID-19 emergency. Because these bulletins provide temporary guidance, they will not be incorporated into this manual.

- Bulletin #20-21-02, DHS Announces Temporary Policy Changes to Minnesota Health Care Programs During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency
- Bulletin #20-21-03, DHS Announces Medical Assistance for COVID-19 Testing of Uninsured Individuals x Bulletin #20-21-04, DHS Explains Treatment of Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Payments for Minnesota Health Care Programs
- Bulletin #20-21-05, DHS Explains Treatment of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Payments for Minnesota Health Care Programs
- Bulletin #20-21-06, DHS Explains Treatment of State, Local and Tribal COVID-19 Relief Payments for Minnesota Health Care Programs
- Bulletin #20-21-10, DHS Announces Updates to Temporary Policies for Minnesota Health Care Programs during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

- Bulletin #20-21-13, DHS Announces a Change to Processing PARIS Interstate Matches for MHCP Enrollees During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
- Bulletin #20-21-14, DHS Explains Treatment of Coronavirus Response Payments under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, for Minnesota Health Care Programs
- Bulletin #21-21-02, DHS Explains Treatment of Coronavirus Response Payments under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, for MHCP
- Bulletin #21-21-03, DHS Explains Treatment of PUA and PEUC for Minnesota Health Care Programs
- Bulletin #21-21-04, DHS Explains Redetermination and Closure of MHCP for Enrollees Not Validly Enrolled due to Fraud or Agency Error
- Bulletin #21-21-05, DHS Announces a Change to the MAGI Methodology for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare
- Bulletin #21-21-06 DHS Announces MinnesotaCare Premium Reductions for 2021 and 2022
- Bulletin #21-21-07 DHS Explains Redetermination and Closure of MHCP for Enrollees Not Validly Enrolled due to Abuse
- Bulletin #21-21-08 DHS Explains Treatment of RentHelp MN Assistance and Child Tax Credit Payments for Minnesota Health Care Programs

Prior versions of EPM sections are available upon request. This manual consolidates and updates eligibility policy previously found in the Health Care Programs Manual (HCPM) and Insurance Affordability Programs Manual (IAPM). Prior versions of policy from the HCPM and IAPM are available upon request.

Refer to the EPM Archive for archived sections of the EPM.

Contact Us

Direct questions about the Minnesota Health Care Programs Eligibility Policy Manual to the DHS Health Care Eligibility and Access (HCEA) Division, P.O. Box 64989, 540 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55164-0989, call (888) 938-3224 or fax (651) 431-7423.

Health care eligibility workers must follow agency procedures to submit policy-related questions to HealthQuest.

Legal Authority

Many legal authorities govern Minnesota Health Care Programs, including but not limited to: Title XIX of the Social Security Act; Titles 26, 42 and 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and

Minnesota Statutes chapters 256B and 256L. In addition, DHS has obtained waivers of certain federal regulations from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Each topic in the EPM includes applicable legal citations at the bottom of the page.

DHS has made every effort to include all applicable statutes, laws, regulations and other presiding authorities; however, erroneous citations or omissions do not imply that there are no applicable legal citations or other presiding authorities. The EPM provides program eligibility policy and should not be construed as legal advice.

Published: ~~September 1, 2023~~ January 1, 2022

Previous Versions

Manual Letter #22.4, September 1, 2022

B. Section 2.1.2.2.1 MA Citizenship

Medical Assistance

2.1.2.2.1 Citizenship

To receive Medical Assistance (MA), applicants must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals or certain lawfully present noncitizens. See the MA Immigration Status policy for more information.

U.S. Citizen

A U.S. citizen is someone who is born in the U.S. (including U.S. territories, except for American Samoa) or who was born outside the U.S. and who either:

- Was naturalized as a U.S. citizen
- Derived citizenship through the naturalization of their parent(s)
- Derived citizenship through adoption by U.S. citizen parents, provided certain conditions are met
- Acquired citizenship at birth because he or she was born to U.S. citizen parent(s)
- Became a U.S. citizen by operation of law

U.S. National

A U.S. national is someone who is a U.S. citizen or owes permanent allegiance to the U.S. With extremely limited exceptions, all noncitizen U.S. nationals are people born in American Samoa or people born abroad with one or more American Samoan parents under certain conditions.

Verification

Citizenship may be verified electronically at the time of application through a data match with the Federal Data Services Hub (FDSH) or the Social Security Administration (SSA). This is the preferred method of verifying citizenship for applicants and enrollees. The county, tribal, or state agency must attempt and exhaust all trusted electronic sources prior to requiring paper documentation from the enrollee. Only applicants and enrollees whose U.S. citizenship or U.S. national status cannot be verified electronically must provide proofs.

Eligibility must be approved for applicants who meet all other eligibility criteria and attest to meeting the citizenship eligibility requirement. A person approved for MA without verification of their citizenship status has a reasonable opportunity to work with the agency to resolve clerical discrepancies preventing electronic verification or to provide proof. A notice is sent to the enrollee to indicate they have 90 days, plus 5 days for mailing, from the date of the notice to satisfy the request. The 90 day plus 5 days for mailing cannot be extended for citizenship verification for MA enrollees.

Eligibility and coverage must end with a 10-day advance notice if the enrollee fails to provide proof of citizenship by the end of the reasonable opportunity period.

During the reasonable opportunity period, the county, tribal or state servicing agency must continue efforts to complete verification of an applicant's citizenship. This includes correcting errant demographic data, re-running electronic sources and checking case records and files for prior instances of successful electronic verification or citizenship documentation received previously. The agency must document efforts to verify an applicant's citizenship during the reasonable opportunity period in the case record. The agency must also help applicants and enrollees obtain required paper proofs.

People who were previously enrolled in MA in another state were required to verify citizenship as a condition of eligibility for MA. As such, verification of citizenship obtained from another state's MA program is an acceptable form of verification. Proof of citizenship may be requested from the state where the client was previously enrolled in MA, if it is not available through other sources. A signed release, such as the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS -2243A) must be obtained from the client to contact another state's MA program agency.

Once citizenship is verified, county, tribal and state servicing agencies cannot request proof again, unless an agency possesses inconsistent information regarding a person's citizenship.

A person who reapplies for health care coverage, whose citizenship was not previously verified, must be given a new reasonable opportunity period to provide proof of citizenship.

Paper Proof of Citizenship

Applicants and enrollees who must provide proof because citizenship could not be electronically verified can submit a copy of one of the following to verify U.S. citizenship:

- U.S. passport, including a U.S. Passport Card issued by the Department of State, without regard to any expiration date as long as such passport or card was issued without limitation
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship
- Valid Minnesota Enhanced Driver's License or Enhanced Identification Card
- Documentary evidence issued by a federally recognized Native American Tribe which identifies the individual by name, and confirms the individual's membership, enrollment or affiliation with the tribe. These documents include a tribal enrollment card, a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood, a tribal census document, or documents on tribal letterhead, issued under the appropriate tribal official.

Applicants and enrollees can also verify citizenship by submitting a copy of one document from each of the following two lists:

- List 1
 - U.S. public birth certificate or other birth document

- The birth record document may be issued by a sState, cCommonwealth, tTerritory, or local jurisdiction.
- For people born in Minnesota, birth records can only be obtained by sending the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) the Minnesota Birth Record Application form. For people that were born in another state, birth records can be obtained directly from the state of birth.
- An electronic data match with a State vital statistics agency can substitute for a List 1 document.
- A Certificate of Report of Birth, issued to the U.S. citizens born outside of the U.S., or Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. citizen
- Certification of birth in the U.S.
- U.S. citizen ID card
- Northern Marianas Identification Card issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- American Indian card (I-872) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Final U.S. adoption papers that show the child's name and a U.S. Place of birth, or if an adoption is not final, a statement from a state-approved adoption agency that shows the child's name and U.S. place of birth
- Papers showing U.S. government employment before June 1, 1976
- U.S. Military Record of Service showing U.S. place of birth
- Documentation that a child meets the requirements of section 101 of the Child Citizenship Act of 2000
- Medical records showing a U. S. place of birth
- Life, health or other insurance company record showing a U. S. place of birth
- Official religious record recorded in the U.S. showing that the birth occurred in the U.S.
- School records including pre-school records, Head Start and daycare showing the child's name and U.S. place of birth
- Federal or state census record showing U.S. citizenship or U.S. place of birth
- An affidavit can be used in lieu of a List 1 proof, if citizenship cannot be verified electronically and the person does not have any List 1 documents.

The affidavit must be signed under penalty of perjury by a person other than the applicant who can attest to the applicant's citizenship. The affidavit must include the applicant's name, date of birth, and place of birth. The affidavit does not need to be notarized.

- List 2

The following are accepted as proof of identity, as long as the document has a photograph or other identifying information sufficient to establish identity, including (but not limited to) name, age, sex, race, height, weight, eye color, or address:

- State driver's license or state ID card
- Real ID Driver's license or ID card
- School ID card
- U.S. Military ID card or draft record
- Military dependent's ID Card
- U.S Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card
- For a child under age 19:
 - School records including pre-school or daycare records
 - Clinic, doctor or hospital records
- Two other documents containing consistent information that corroborates a person's identity
- Finding of identity from a federal or state government agency
- An affidavit can be used in lieu of List 2 proof, if citizenship cannot be verified electronically and the person does not have any List 2 documents.

Exemptions from the Citizenship Verification Requirement

The following people are exempt from the U.S. citizenship verification requirement:

- People enrolled in or entitled to enroll in Medicare. The SSA has already verified citizenship and identity for these people.
- People who receive or previously received Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- People who receive or previously received Retirement, Survivors or Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits due to disability (also known as SSDI). This does not include people who receive RSDI retirement or survivor's insurance benefits. They are not exempt from this requirement unless they meet another condition for exemption (such as enrollment in Medicare).
- ~~○ Children who receive Northstar~~
- Auto newborns and children previously enrolled as auto newborns

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.406

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.407

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.911

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.945

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.949

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.952

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.956

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.1008

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 457.320

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 457.380

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, section 1413

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, section 14141

Published: ~~March~~ January 1, 2023 2024

Previous Version:

Manual Letter #21.2, March 1, 2021

C. Section 2.1.2.5 MA Social Security Number

Medical Assistance

2.1.2.5 Social Security Number

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) uses Social Security Numbers (SSNs) to identify applicants and enrollees and to administer Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP). DHS matches SSNs against records in electronic data sources to identify and verify household income and size based on the most recent tax return filed by the household tax filer.

Each person requesting Medical Assistance (MA) must provide their SSN as a condition of eligibility unless they meet an exception. People who do not have SSNs and do not meet an exception must apply for an SSN. The following are exceptions:

- An applicant who refuses to obtain an SSN because of a well-established religious objection
- A noncitizen who is not eligible to receive a SSN or does not have one and may only be issued one for a valid non-work reason
- People applying for or receiving Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA), CHIP funded MA for pregnant women or MA for people receiving services from the Center for Victims of Torture(CVT)
- A child eligible for MA as an auto newborn
- ~~A child receiving Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care or Title IV-E Kinship Assistance~~
- A child receiving Northstar Title IV-E Adoption Assistance
- A child receiving Title IV-E or non-Title IV-E adoption assistance under the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA)
- Refugees applying for or receiving Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)

An agency may request but cannot require someone who is not applying for coverage to provide a SSN. If the agency requests the SSN of a non-applicant, the disclosure must:

- be voluntary,
- only be used to determine an applicant's eligibility for a MHCP or for a purpose directly connected to administration of the State Plan, and
- include clear information on how the SSN will be used and notice to the application filer that it is voluntary.

Pre-Eligibility Verification

If an applicant has a SSN, it must be provided to the MA eligibility determination. If an applicant cannot recall their SSN or if a SSN has not been issued for the applicant, and the person does not meet an exception, the county, tribal or state servicing agency must assist the applicant in:

- completing an application for a SSN, if a SSN has not been issued for the applicant, or
- contacting the SSA to confirm the applicant's SSN if one has already been issued,

If an applicant must apply for an SSN, proof that the person applied for an SSN is required prior to the MA eligibility determination. The proof of application is acceptable until the person receives the SSN. Once the SSN is received the individual must provide it to the agency.

Verifying Exceptions to Hhaving an SSN

Certain exceptions from the requirement to have or apply for an SSN must be verified prior to the MA eligibility determination

Well-established religious objection

- A letter or other verification from a church leader that the religion is a recognized sect of division that is conscientiously opposed to applying for a SSN
- Proof of filing for a waiver with the IRS using form 4029

Non-immigrant unable to attain SSN other than a valid non-work reason

- No further proof is needed if the agency can determine that the client's status is such as they cannot work in the US
- Letter from SSA or other official that the client is not eligible for a SSN except for a valid non-work reason

Other exceptions from the requirement to have or apply for an SSN do not require proof.

Post-Eligibility Verification

SSNs must be verified with the Social Security Administration (SSA).

Eligibility cannot be delayed for an otherwise eligible applicant pending the electronic verification of a SSN if one is provided at application. A notice must be sent to a person to inform them that they have 95 days from the date of the notice to provide proof of their correct SSN or to resolve any clerical discrepancies preventing electronic verification.

The 95 day period can be extended if the MA enrollee is demonstrating a good faith effort to resolve the discrepancy preventing electronic verification. Enrollees who need more time to resolve the SSN discrepancy must receive a notice that tells them the new due date. There is no limit to the number of times the reasonable opportunity period can be extended for the MA enrollee to resolve the SSN discrepancy. MA eligibility and coverage ends with 10-day advance notice if the enrollee fails to resolve the SSN discrepancy by the end of the reasonable opportunity period or any extension.

During the reasonable opportunity period, the county, tribal or state servicing agency must continue efforts to verify an applicant's SSN. This includes correcting errant demographic data, re-running electronic sources and checking case records and files for prior instances of successful electronic

verification. The agency must assist the applicant in resolving discrepancies in the case file that are preventing successful verification. The agency must document efforts to verify an applicant's SSN during the reasonable opportunity period in the case record.

Electronic verification is ultimately required to verify a person's SSN.

A person who applies for health care coverage, whose SSN was not previously verified, must be given a new reasonable opportunity period to resolve the SSN discrepancy.

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 20, section 422.104

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.907

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.910

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.948

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.952

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.956

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 457.340

Published: ~~June~~ January 1, 2023 ~~2020~~

Previous Versions:

Manual Letter #20.2, June 1, 2020

D. Section 2.5 MA for Certain Populations

2.5 Medical Assistance for Certain Populations

Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility is determined using a variety of non-financial, financial and post-eligibility requirements. Different types of MA have different eligibility policies. This chapter covers MA for certain populations. Many of the people covered by these types of MA are not otherwise eligible for MA for Families with Children and Adults (MA-FCA) or MA for People Who Are Age 65 or Older or People Who Are Blind or Have a Disability (MA-ABD).

MA for Women with Breast or Cervical Cancer (MA-BC)

MA for People Receiving Services at the Center for Victims of Torture (MA-CVT)

Emergency MA (EMA)

MA for People Receiving Services at an Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD), also called Program IM

MA for Hospitalized Incarcerated People

MA for Children Receiving Northstar Care for Children Adoption Assistance, Northstar Kinship Assistance and Children in Foster Care

MA for Children Receiving Northstar Adoption Assistance (MA-NAA) ~~Northstar Adoption Assistance~~

MA for Children Receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance (MA-NKA) ~~Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance~~

MA for Children in Foster Care (MA-FC) ~~Non-Title IV-E Foster Care and Non-Title IV-E Kinship Assistance~~

Refugee MA (RMA)

Published: June ~~January~~ 1, ~~2016~~ 2023

[Previous Versions](#)

[Manual Letter #16.1, June 1, 2016 \(Original\)](#)

E. Section 2.5.6 Medical Assistance for Children Receiving Northstar Adoption Assistance (NAA), Northstar Kinship Assistance (NKA), and Children in Foster Care (FC)

2.5.6 Medical Assistance for Children Receiving Northstar Adoption Assistance (NAA), Northstar Kinship Assistance (NKA), and Children in Foster Care (FC) ~~Medical Assistance Northstar Care for Children~~

All children who receive Northstar Adoption Assistance (NAA), Northstar Kinship Assistance (NKA) and children in foster care (FC) are eligible for Medical Assistance (MA).

This chapter includes MA eligibility policies that apply to:

MA Northstar Adoption Assistance (NAA)

MA Northstar Kinship Assistance (NKA)

MA for Children in Foster Care (FC)

~~Beginning January 1, 2015, children entering foster care or placed in permanent homes through adoption or kinship arrangements may be eligible for Northstar Care for Children (Northstar).~~

~~Northstar includes three programs:~~

- ~~● Northstar Adoption Assistance~~
- ~~● Northstar Foster Care~~
- ~~● Northstar Kinship Assistance~~

~~Northstar will gradually replace pre-Northstar programs as children age out of the legacy programs including:~~

- ~~● Adoption Assistance~~
- ~~● Foster Care~~
- ~~● Relative Custody Assistance (RCA)~~

~~Each Northstar program has two different funding streams. The federal government funds Title IV-E Adoption Assistance, Foster Care and Kinship Assistance. State funds are used for children who are not eligible for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance, Foster Care and Kinship Assistance (non-Title IV-E).~~

~~Most children who receive Northstar are eligible for Medical Assistance (MA). Both the type of program and the funding source affect MA eligibility.~~

~~This chapter includes MA eligibility policies that apply to each type of Northstar Care for Children.~~

~~MA Northstar Adoption Assistance~~

~~MA Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance~~

~~MA Northstar Non-Title IV-E Foster Care and Non-Title IV-E Kinship Assistance~~

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.145

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.227

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.055

Minnesota Statutes, chapter ~~section~~ 256N

Published: ~~June~~ January 1, 2023 2016

Previous Versions

Manual Letter #16.1, June 1, 2016 (Original Version)

F. Section 2.5.6.1.4.2 Medical Assistance for Children Receiving Northstar Adoption Assistance (NAA), Northstar Kinship Assistance (NKA), and Children in Foster Care (FC) Title IV-E and Medicare

Medical Assistance Northstar Title IV-E for Children Receiving Northstar Adoption Assistance (NAA), Northstar Kinship Assistance (NKA), and Children in Foster Care (FC)

2.5.6.1.4.2 Title IV-E and Medicare

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) pays the monthly Medicare Part B premiums for Medicare eligible children with Title IV-E Adoption Assistance, ~~and Title IV-E Foster Care, or Title IV-E or Kinship Assistance.~~

Legal Citations

United States Code, title 42, section 1395v

Published: ~~June~~ January 1, 2023 ~~2016~~

Previous Versions

Manual Letter #16.1, June 1, 2016 (Original Version)

G. Section 2.5.6.2 MA Northstar Kinship Assistance (MA-NKA)

Medical Assistance Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E for Children Receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance

2.5.6.2 Medical Assistance for Children Receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance (MA-NKA) Medical Assistance Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance

Children who receive Northstar Kinship Assistance are eligible for Medical Assistance (MA-NKA) without a health care application or financial eligibility requirements. This includes children who receive Title IV-E or non-IV-E NKA.

Northstar Kinship Assistance is a benefit program that supports eligible children in foster care who find permanency with a relative through a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody (TPLPC). A TPLPC to a relative custodian provides a child in out-of-home care with a permanent home when efforts to reunite the child with his or her family have been unsuccessful and permanency through adoption is either not possible or not appropriate.

In addition to receiving MA-NKA without an application or financial eligibility requirements, the child receives other benefits under the NKA benefit agreement, including monthly payments and reimbursement for nonrecurring expenses associated with finalizing a TPLPC.

NKA replaced Relative Custody Assistance (RCA) on January 1, 2015. NKA will gradually replace RCA as children age out. Children who receive RCA do not qualify for MA-NKA but may qualify for MA under another basis of eligibility, such as child or disabled basis.

This chapter includes the following policies that apply to MA-NKA.

MA-NKA General Requirements

MA-NKA Mandatory Verifications

MA-NKA Non-Financial Eligibility

MA-NKA Basis of Eligibility

MA-NKA Financial Eligibility

MA-NKA Post-Eligibility

MA-NKA Health Care Delivery

MA-NKA Renewals

MA County Residency

MA Medical Support

MHCP Change in Circumstances

MA-NAA, MA-NKA, and MA-FC Title IV-E and Medicare

MA Referral for Other Benefits

~~This section provides information about Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility for children who receive Title IV-E Northstar Foster Care or Title IV-E Northstar Kinship Assistance.~~

~~See Medical Assistance Non-Title IV-E Northstar Foster Care and Kinship Assistance for information about children who receive non-Title IV-E foster care or kinship assistance.~~

~~Children eligible for Title IV-E Foster Care or Title IV-E Kinship Assistance are automatically eligible for MA without a health care application.~~

~~General Requirements~~

~~MA Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance Mandatory Verifications~~

~~MA Benefit Recovery~~

~~MA Third Party Liability~~

~~MA Cost Effective Insurance~~

~~MA Other Third Party Liability~~

~~MHCP Change in Circumstances~~

~~MHCP Fraud~~

~~MHCP Inconsistent Information~~

~~MA Referral for Other Benefits~~

~~MHCP Rights~~

~~Non-Financial Eligibility~~

~~MA Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance Basis of Eligibility~~

~~MA Citizenship and Immigration Status~~

~~MA County Residency~~

~~MHCP State Residency for Adoption Assistance and Foster Care~~

~~Financial Eligibility~~

~~MA Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance have no financial eligibility requirements~~

~~Post-Eligibility~~

~~MA Benefit Recovery~~

~~MHCP Change in Circumstances~~

~~MHCP Fraud~~

~~MA FCA Health Care Delivery~~

~~MHCP Inconsistent Information~~

~~MA Northstar Title IV-E and Medicare~~

~~MA Referral for Other Benefits~~

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.145

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.055

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 256N

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Manual Letter #16.1, June 1, 2016 (Original Version)

H. Section 2.5.6.2.1 MA Northstar Title IV-E FC and KA General Requirements

~~Medical Assistance Northstar Kinship Assistance General Requirements~~

~~Medical Assistance Northstar Care Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance~~

2.5.6.2.1 General Requirements

~~This subchapter provides general policy information for MA for children who receive Northstar Kinship Assistance (MA-NKA), and where applicable, links to policies that apply to all Medical Assistance (MA) programs and all Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).~~

~~This subchapter provides general policy information that applies to Medical Assistance (MA): Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance.~~

~~This subchapter includes policies that apply to MA: Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance and links to policies that apply to all MA programs and all Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).~~

Topics covered in this subchapter are:

MA-NKA Mandatory Verifications

~~MA Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance Mandatory Verifications~~

MA Benefit Recovery

~~MA Third Party Liability~~

~~MA Cost Effective Insurance~~

~~MA Other Third Party Liability~~

MHCP Change in Circumstances

~~MHCP Fraud~~

MHCP Inconsistent Information

~~MA Referral for Other Benefits~~

MHCP Rights

MHCP Appeals

MHCP Authorized Representative

MHCP Civil Rights

MHCP Data Privacy

MHCP Notices

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Manual Letter #16.1, June 1, 2016 (Original Version)

I. Section 2.5.6.2.1.1 MA Northstar Title IV-E FC and KA mandatory Verifications

Medical Assistance Northstar ~~Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-Kinship Assistance~~

2.5.6.2.1.1 Mandatory Verifications

Mandatory verifications must be verified through an available electronic data source or by paper proof, if electronic data sources are unsuccessful or unavailable. Self-attestation alone is not acceptable for eligibility requirements with mandatory verifications. Self-attestation of certain eligibility factors may be accepted if electronic data sources are unsuccessful or unavailable and paper proof does not exist or is not available. When determining MA eligibility for a child receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance (MA-NKA), the eligibility worker in the relative custodian's county of residence or MA processing tribal agency is responsible for verifying the following information for the child:

- Receiving NKA benefits
- Social Security number (SSN)
- U.S. Citizenship
- Immigration Status

~~Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance must be verified to establish initial Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility or to extend MA eligibility beyond age 18. Written or verbal confirmation from the child's case manager or social worker of the child's Title IV-E eligibility and date of placement is adequate verification.~~

Proof of Northstar Kinship Assistance (NKA) Benefits

A health care application is not required to determine MA for a child who receives NKA. However, proof the child is receiving NKA benefits is required prior to MA approval.

As proof of NKA benefits, the eligibility worker in the relative custodian's county of residence or MA processing tribal agency will receive the NKA Payment Commencement Notice from the DHS permanency support payment specialist. DHS permanency support payment specialists are state employees who are responsible for initiation, issuance and maintenance of NKA benefits.

Social Security Number

A Social Security Number (SSN) is required for a child receiving NKA unless the child meets an exception. See EPM section 2.1.2.5 MA Social Security Number for more information.

The eligibility worker must assist the child's relative custodian in obtaining a SSN for the child, if the child does not have one. In most cases, the child's SSN was previously obtained while the child was in foster care, prior to NKA approval. MA eligibility must not be denied or delayed due to this requirement.

~~A Social Security Number is not required for children receiving Title IV-E Foster Care or Title IV-E Kinship Assistance.~~

~~County, tribal and state servicing agencies must retain verification documentation in accordance with the County Human Services Records Retention Schedule (DHS-6928).~~

Citizenship and Immigration Status

Children who receive NKA are U.S. citizens or lawfully present noncitizens. U.S. citizen and lawfully present noncitizen children are eligible for MA.

Verification of U.S. citizenship and lawful presence was previously obtained while the child was in foster care as part of Title IV-E determination or the NKA eligibility determination and does not need to be re-verified.

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.145

Minnesota Statutes, section 256N.22

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.055

Published: April ~~January 1, 2023~~ 2019

Previous Versions

Manual Letter #19.1, April 1, 2019

Manual Letter #16.1, June 1, 2016 (Original Version)

J. Section 2.5.6.2.2 MA-NKA Non-Financial Eligibility

Medical Assistance Northstar Kinship Assistance ~~Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance~~

2.5.6.2.2 Non-Financial Eligibility

This subchapter provides non-financial eligibility policy information that applies to Medical Assistance ~~for children receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance (NKA). Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance.~~ Non-financial eligibility requirements are not related to a person's income or assets.

~~This subchapter includes links to MA Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance policy and links to policies that apply to all MA programs and all Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).~~

This subchapter includes links to policies that apply to MA-NKA, and where applicable, policies that apply to all Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

MA-NKA Basis of Eligibility

~~MA Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Kinship Assistance Basis of Eligibility~~

MA Citizenship and Immigration Status

MA County Residency

MA Social Security Number

~~MHCP State Residency for Northstar Adoption Assistance and Foster Care~~

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.145

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.055

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Manual Letter #16.1, June 1, 2016 (Original Version)

K. Section 2.5.6.2.2.1 MA Northstar Title IV-E and KA Basis of Eligibility

Medical Assistance Northstar ~~Care Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance~~

2.5.6.2.2.1 Basis of Eligibility

Minnesota provides Medical Assistance (MA) to certain groups of people as allowed under law. These groups are referred to as a basis of eligibility. A person's basis of eligibility determines the non-financial criteria and financial methodology used to determine MA eligibility.

~~The Title IV-E basis of eligibility includes children receiving:~~

- ~~• Title IV-E Foster Care~~
- ~~• Title IV-E Kinship Assistance~~

~~The Title IV-E basis of eligibility ends when Title IV-E status ends or the child turns age 18 and no extension is granted, or age 21, with an extension.~~

~~Children with a certified disability, receiving a home and community based services waiver continue to use the Title IV-E basis of eligibility. They do not use the disabled basis of eligibility.~~

Children who receive NKA who have a certified disability and receive home and community-based waiver services are not required to use the disabled basis of eligibility and should continue to use the NKA basis of eligibility.

Eligibility Begin Date

A child's MA under the NKA basis begins the first day of the month the NKA benefit agreement goes into effect. When NKA benefits are approved, the DHS permanency support specialist sends both the NKA payment commencement notice and a copy of the NKA benefit agreement to the health care eligibility worker in the child's county of residence. The effective date of the NKA benefit agreement is included in the NKA payment commencement notice.

For a child who is transitioning from foster care to the NKA basis, maintain MA eligibility must continue under the foster care basis until the NKA benefit agreement goes into effect.

Eligibility End Date

MA under the NKA basis ends the last day of the month the child turns age 18, unless they receive an extension. Extensions to the NKA benefit agreements may continue up to age 21.

The DHS Permanency Support Specialist will notify the eligibility worker if there is a change to the NKA benefit agreement end date before the child turns age 18.

MA eligibility continues under the NKA basis while eligibility is redetermined under all other MA bases or insurance affordability programs. Children whose MA eligibility ends under the NKA basis do not qualify for MA under the former foster child basis.

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.145

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.916

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.055, subdivision 2

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Manual letter #16.1, June 1, 2016 (Original Version)

L. Section 2.5.6.2.3 MA Northstar Title IV-E FC and KA Financial Eligibility

Medical Assistance Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance Kinship Assistance

2.5.6.2.3 Financial Eligibility

This subchapter provides policy about financial eligibility. This includes eligibility factors that involve a person's income or assets.

Medical Assistance for children receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance (MA-NKA) does not have an income or asset limit.

~~Financial eligibility requirements involve a person's income or assets. Medical Assistance (MA) Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance has no income or asset eligibility requirements.~~

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.145

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.055, subdivision 2

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Previous Versions

Manual Letter #16.1, June 1, 2016 (Original Version)

M. Section 2.5.6.2.4 MA Northstar Title IV-E FC and KA Post-Eligibility

Medical Assistance Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance

2.5.6.2.4 Post-Eligibility

~~These policies apply to Medical Assistance (MA): Northstar Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance enrollees. This subchapter includes policies that apply to all MA: Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Kinship Assistance and links to policies that apply to all MA programs and all Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) programs.~~

This subchapter includes policies that apply to Medical Assistance (MA) for children receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance (NKA) and links to policies that apply to all MA programs and all Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

Topics covered in this sub-chapter are:

MA-NKA Basis of Eligibility

MHCP change in Circumstances

MHCP Fraud

MA-FCA Health Care Delivery

MHCP Inconsistent information

MA Benefit Recovery

MA Third Party Liability

Children who receive NKA are not required to cooperate with TPL requirements as a condition of eligibility for MA.

MA Cost Effective Insurance

MA Medical Support

A medical support referral is not required for children who receive NKA.

MA-NKA Health Care Delivery

MA-NAA, MA-NKA, and MA-FC Title IV-E and Medicare

MA Referral for Other Benefits

Children who receive NKA are not required to apply for other benefits as a condition of MA eligibility.

MA-NKA Renewals

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Manual Letter #16.1, June 1, 2016 (Original Version)

N. Section 2.5.6.2.4.1 MA-NKA Health Care Delivery

Medical Assistance Northstar Kinship Assistance

2.5.6.2.4.1 Health Care Delivery

All children who receive Northstar Kinship Assistance (NKA) receive Medical Assistance (MA) health care services through managed care plans unless they meet a reason for exclusion.

See the Prepaid Minnesota Health Care Programs Manual for more information about managed care exclusions. For additional information on health care delivery and cost of services, refer to EPM 2.2.4.1 MA-FCA Health Care Delivery.

Legal Citations

Minnesota Rules, parts 9500.1450 to 9500.1464

Minnesota Rules, part 9505.0285

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.69

Published: January 1, 2023

O. Section 2.5.6.2.4.2 MA-NKA Renewals

Medical Assistance Northstar Kinship Assistance

2.5.6.2.4.2 Renewals

Medical Assistance for children who receive Northstar Kinship Assistance (MA-NKA) must be renewed every 12 months.

A child's eligibility for MA-NKA must be renewed without requiring information or paperwork from the child or relative custodian. No renewal form or verifications are gathered.

Contact information for the child and relative custodian must be confirmed at renewal to ensure ongoing MA eligibility for the child.

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.916

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.056, subdivision 7a

Published: January 1, 2023

P. Section 2.5.6.3 MA ~~Northstar Non-Title IV-E FC and KA~~ for Children in Foster Care

2.5.6.3 Medical Assistance ~~Northstar Non-Title IV-E Foster Care and Non-Title IV-E Kinship Assistance~~ for Children in Foster Care (MA-FC)

~~Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility is determined using a variety of non-financial, financial and post-eligibility requirements. Children who receive Non-Title IV-E Foster Care or Non-Title IV-E Kinship Assistance are not automatically eligible for MA. They must qualify for MA by meeting the requirements of their basis of eligibility. Most of these children are eligible for MA for Families with Children and Adults (MA-FCA). Children with a disability or blindness who need additional services may be eligible for MA for People Who Are Age 65 or Older and People Who Are Blind or Have a Disability (MA-ABD).~~

~~The following policies are specific to children who receive Non-Title IV-E Foster Care or Non-Title IV-E Kinship Assistance:~~

- ~~• Parental income deeming rules do not apply beginning with the month of placement.~~
- ~~• A medical support referral is not required.~~
- ~~• Excluded time rules determine the county financial responsibility only for Foster Care Assistance. The county of financial responsibility for children receiving Kinship Assistance follows the standard rules. See MA County Residency for more information.~~
- ~~• People who are applying on behalf of these children should apply at the county, tribal, or state agency using the Minnesota Health Care Programs Application for Certain Populations (DHS-3876). These children should not apply through MNsure.~~

~~The following policies apply:~~

~~MA for Families with Children and Adults (MA-FCA)~~

~~MA for People Who Are Age 65 or Older and People Who Are Blind or Have a Disability (MA-ABD)~~

~~State Residency for Adoption Assistance and Foster Care~~

All children in foster care, regardless of Title IV-E eligibility, are eligible for Medical Assistance (MA-FC) the the month the child enters foster care, without a health care application or financial eligibility requirements.

Children in foster care are required to enroll in managed care and receive the same MA covered services as other MA-eligible children. See DHS-3860 for a list of covered services. Children in foster care do not have co-pays or other cost sharing.

Overview of Foster Care

Foster care is temporary out-of-home care for children. Children who cannot safely remain with their family may be placed in a family foster home or group residential facility. This includes youth age 18-21 in extended foster care who move to supervised independent living settings, such as a dorm or apartment.

When a child enters foster care, the county or tribal social services agency is granted legal responsibility for the child. A social services case manager is assigned to the child to determine the need and appropriateness, authority, and funding for the child's foster care placement. The case manager acts on the child's behalf to ensure the child receives necessary services and benefits, including Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility, while in placement. The case manager collaborates with the health care eligibility worker to obtain information needed to approve MA immediately upon placement in foster care and to maintain MA eligibility for the child throughout placement.

The foster care placement begins the date the child is removed from their home by the authority of a 72-hour law enforcement emergency protective hold (i.e. 72-hour hold), court order, or voluntary placement agreement.

Children enter foster care in a variety of ways, such as:

- Child is court ordered into placement, under the placement responsibility of the county or tribal social service agency, through the juvenile court or tribal court as a child protection matter.
- Child's removal is initiated by a delinquency court petition and,
 - the county or tribal social service agency was given placement responsibility through a court action or by the signing of a Voluntary Placement Agreement, or
 - the county/community corrections department has placement responsibility and there is a Title IV-E agreement in place between the social service agency and corrections department making them a designee of the social service agency, or
 - the social service agency and corrections department are considered an umbrella agency (Umbrella Counties are Dakota, Nobles and Olmsted County).
- Child is removed under the authority of a 72-hour hold.
- Voluntary placement through an agreement between the parent and the county or tribal social service agency.
- Voluntary placement agreement between a youth, age 18 to 21 who is remaining in or re-entering extended foster care, and county or tribal social service agency.

Trial Home Visits

A child who returns home on a trial home visit (THV) remains in foster care and eligible for MA under the foster care basis of eligibility. Children on a THV are considered to be in foster care because the county or tribal social service agency has care and placement responsibility for the child during the THV.

72-Hour Hold

A child who is removed under the authority of a 72-hour hold is in foster care and is eligible for MA under the foster care basis of eligibility, regardless of whether a court order has been issued to transfer placement and care responsibility to the county or tribe.

This chapter includes policies that apply to MA for children in foster care.

MA-FC General Requirements

MA-FC Mandatory Verifications

MA-FC Non-Financial Eligibility

MA-FC Basis of Eligibility

MA County Residency

MA-FC Financial Eligibility

MA-FC Post-Eligibility

MA Medical Support

MHCP Change in Circumstances

MA-FC Health Care Delivery

MA-NAA, MANKA, and MA-FC Title IVE-E and Medicare

MA Referral for Other Benefits

Children in foster care are not required to apply for other benefits as a condition of MA eligibility.

MA-FC Renewals

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.145

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.055

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Manual Letter #19.2, June 1, 2019

Manual Letter #16.1, June 1, 2016 (Original Version)

Q. Section 2.5.6.3.1 MA-Foster Care (FC) General Requirements

Medical Assistance for Children in Foster Care

2.5.6.3.1 General Requirements

This subchapter provides general policy information that applies to Medical Assistance for children in foster care (MA-FC), and where applicable, links to policies that apply to all MA programs and all Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

Topics covered in this subchapter are:

MA-FC Mandatory Verifications

MA Benefit Recovery

MHCP Change in Circumstances

MHCP Inconsistent Information

MHCP Rights

MHCP Appeals

MHCP Authorized Representative

MHCP Civil Rights

MHCP Data Privacy

MHCP Notices

Published: January 1, 2023

R. Section 2.5.6.3.1.1 MA-FC Mandatory Verifications

Medical Assistance for Children in Foster Care

2.5.6.3.1.1 Mandatory Verifications

Mandatory verifications must be verified through an available electronic data source or by paper proof, if electronic data sources are unsuccessful or unavailable. Self-attestation of certain eligibility factors may be accepted if electronic data sources are unsuccessful or unavailable and paper proof does not exist or is not available. See EPM section 2.2.1.2 MA-FCA Mandatory Verifications for more information.

The following mandatory verifications are required for MA for children in foster care (MA-FC):

- Foster care placement begin date
- Social Security number (SSN)
- U.S. Citizenship
- Immigration Status

The child's social services case manager will obtain mandatory verifications on the child's behalf. The child remains eligible for MA while the case manager obtains mandatory verifications.

Foster Care Placement Begin Date

The foster care placement begin date must be received from the case manager (via a system interface or from the case manager directly) before approving MA-FC for the child.

Social Security Number

A SSN is required unless the child meets an exception. See EPM 2.1.2.5 MA Social Security Number for more information.

Some children may not have a SSN when first placed in foster care. The child's case manager will assist the child with obtaining a SSN or to apply for a SSN if they do not have one and are eligible to receive a SSN. The child remains eligible for MA if they are eligible to receive a SSN and the case manager is assisting with obtaining it.

Citizenship and Immigration Status

To receive MA, children in foster care must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals or lawfully present noncitizens.

Undocumented children in foster care who are not eligible for MA because they do not have a valid immigration status may be eligible for Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA).

Most undocumented children in foster care qualify for a path to lawful permanent residence (green card) through Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) classification. Case managers assist undocumented children in foster care with obtaining information about and applying for SIJ classification. Once an application for SIJ has been accepted by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), an undocumented child is considered lawfully present for the purpose of MA eligibility.

The process for applying for SIJ classification is lengthy and can take several months.

See EPM sections 2.1.2.2.1 MA Citizenship and 2.1.2.2.2 MA immigration status for more information.

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.145

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.055

Published: January 1, 2023

S. Section 2.5.6.3.2 MA-FC Non-Financial Eligibility

Medical Assistance for Children in Foster Care

2.5.6.3.2 Non-Financial Eligibility

This subchapter provides non-financial eligibility policy that applies to Medical Assistance for children in foster care (MA-FC). Non-financial eligibility requirements are not related to a person's income or assets.

This subchapter includes links to policies that apply to Medical Assistance for children in foster care (MA-FC), and where applicable, policies that apply to all MA programs and all Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

MA-FC Basis of Eligibility

MA Citizenship and Immigration Status

MA County Residency

MA Social Security Number

MHCP State Residency for Northstar Adoption Assistance and Foster Care

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.145

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.055

Published: January 1, 2023

T. Section 2.5.6.3.2.1 MA-FC Basis of Eligibility

Medical Assistance for Children in Foster Care (MA-FC)

2.5.6.3.2.1 Basis of Eligibility

The MA for children in foster care (MA-FC) basis of eligibility is available to all children in foster care regardless of Title IV-E eligibility.

Children in foster care who have a certified disability and receive home and community-based waiver services should continue to use the MA-FC basis of eligibility. They do not need to use the disabled basis of eligibility.

MA-FC Basis of Eligibility Begin Date

A child's MA-FC basis of eligibility begins the first day of the month the foster care placement begins.

The foster care placement begins the date the child is removed from their home by the authority of a 72-hour law enforcement emergency protective hold (i.e. 72-hour hold), court order, or voluntary placement agreement.

MA-FC Basis of Eligibility End Date

MA-FC ends the last day of the month in which the foster care placement ends with 10-day advanced notice.

A child whose foster care placement ends must be redetermined for MA under all other bases of eligibility or Insurance Affordability Programs (IAPs) without interruption in their coverage. A new application is not required.

Change in Basis

A child's eligibility under MA-FC basis ends when the foster care placement ends. Foster care placements end in the following circumstances, including, but not limited to:

- Child under age 18:
 - returns home and is no longer under the placement and care responsibility of the agency,
 - a child has a Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody (TPLPC) to a relative and is approved for Northstar Kinship Assistance (NKA) benefits,
 - is adopted.
- A child turns age 18, ages out of foster care and does not continue in extended foster care.
- A youth ages 18, 19, and 20 who has continued in or re-entered extended foster care turns age 21.

A child who returns home on a Trial Home Visit (THV) is still considered to be in foster care and eligible for MA-FC.

MA-FC Basis to Former Foster Child (FFC) Basis of Eligibility

Youth age 18 and older whose foster care placement ends qualify for MA under the FFC basis until age 26, without regard to income, beginning the month after foster care ends. A new application is not required. See MA-FCA Basis of Eligibility for more information.

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.145

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.916

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.150

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.055, subdivision 2

Published: January 1, 2023

U. Section 2.5.6.3.3 MA-FC Financial Eligibility

Medical Assistance for Children in Foster Care

2.5.6.3.3 Financial Eligibility

This subchapter provides policy about financial eligibility. Financial eligibility requirements involve a person's income or assets.

Children in foster care do not have a Medical Assistance income or asset limit.

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.145

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.055, subdivision 2

Published: January 1, 2023

V. Section 2.5.6.3.4 MA-FC Post Eligibility

Medical Assistance for Children in Foster Care

2.5.6.3.4 Post-Eligibility

This subchapter includes policies that apply to Medical Assistance for children in foster care (MA-FC) and when applicable, links to policies that apply to all MA programs and all Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

Topics covered in this sub-chapter are:

MA-FC Basis of Eligibility

MA Benefit Recovery

MA Third Party Liability

Children in foster care are not required to cooperate with TPL requirements as a condition of eligibility for MA.

MA Cost Effective Insurance

MA Medical Support

A medical support referral is not required for children in foster care.

MA-FC Health Care Delivery

MA-NAA, MA-NKA, and MA-FC Title IV-E and Medicare

MA Referral for Other Benefits

Children in foster care are not required to apply for other benefits as a condition of MA eligibility.

MA-FC Renewals

Published: January 1, 2023

W. Section 2.5.6.3.4.1 MA-FC Health Care Delivery

Medical Assistance for Children in Foster Care

2.5.6.3.4.1 Health Care Delivery

Children in foster care receive Medical Assistance (MA) health care services through managed care plans unless they meet a reason for exclusion. See Prepaid Minnesota Health Care Programs Manual for more information about managed care exclusions. For additional information on health care delivery and cost of services, refer to EPM 2.2.4.1 MA FCA Health Care Delivery.

Legal Citations

Minnesota Rules, parts 9500.1450 to 9500.1464

Minnesota Rules, part 9505.0285

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.69

Published: January 1, 2023

X. Section 2.5.6.3.4.2 MA-FC Renewals

Medical Assistance for Children in Foster Care

2.5.6.3.4.2 Renewals

Medical Assistance for children in foster care (MA-FC) must be renewed every 12 months.

A child's eligibility for MA-FC must be renewed without requiring information or paperwork from the child or foster family. No renewal form or verifications are gathered.

The child's continued placement in foster care must be confirmed with the child's case manager as a condition of ongoing eligibility under this basis. Contact information for the child and case manager must also be confirmed at renewal to ensure ongoing MA eligibility for the child.

Legal Citations

Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 435.916

Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.056, subdivision 7a

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