

## Empowering Youth Update, Special Edition - Medical Assistance for current of former foster youth over age 18

Fall 2024

### What is the Empowering Youth Update?

The quarterly Empowering Youth Update is a resource for county, Tribal and private agency staff working with youth in the child welfare system. Topics include Education and Training Voucher (ETV), Extended Foster Care, Successful Transition to Adulthood for Youth (STAY), STAY in the Community programs, Medical Assistance (MA), minor parents, pregnant and parenting youth as well as other related issues, statutes and resources empowering youth.

### Medical Assistance for current or former foster youth over age 18

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families is aware that youth over the age of 18 who have left foster care are eligible for [Medical Assistance \(MA\) up to age 26](#) and may have lost coverage. This has been addressed and guidance has been provided to county and Tribal health care staff who manage cases for foster youth.

County, Tribal and community agency case managers are encouraged to take extra steps to ensure coverage for youth leaving foster care after age 18 or those who have exited foster care. Make sure the county or Tribal agency has the current address and phone number for the youth in the system.

For youth who have questions about eligibility or medical coverage, or have a lapse in insurance, contact the [county or Tribal human services office](#) where the youth resides for assistance.

If additional assistance is needed, email [dcyf\\_csp\\_adolescents@state.mn.us](mailto:dcyf_csp_adolescents@state.mn.us).

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## Contact the Minnesota Department of Human Services Adolescent Services unit staff:

- **Deborah Beske Brown**, supervisor, at 651-319-1093, or [deborah.beske.brown@state.mn.us](mailto:deborah.beske.brown@state.mn.us).
- **Aubrey Haddican**, consultant for Medical Assistance for former foster youth, runaway policy for foster children, minor parents, and pregnant and parenting youth in foster care. Contact her at 651-539-7768 or [Aubrey.haddican@state.mn.us](mailto:Aubrey.haddican@state.mn.us).
- **Kim Lemcke**, independent living coordinator for the [STAY program](#) and the [STAY in the Community](#) program, [Minnesota Youth in Transition Database](#), [Minnesota Youth Leadership Councils](#) and member of the [Tomorrow's Leaders Today](#) Youth Leadership Conference Planning Committee. Contact her at 651-539-8201 or [kim.lemcke@state.mn.us](mailto:kim.lemcke@state.mn.us).
- **Paul Minehart**, coordinator of the [Education and Training Voucher \(ETV\)](#). Contact him at 651-539-7936 or 651-402-2239 or [paul.minehart@state.mn.us](mailto:paul.minehart@state.mn.us).
- **Nicolas Vogel**, policy specialist for [extended foster care](#), coordinator for [Credit reports for youth in care](#) and the contact for the [Foster Youth to Independence](#) housing vouchers. Contact him at 651-431-4707 or [nicolas.vogel@state.mn.us](mailto:nicolas.vogel@state.mn.us).
- **General questions and inquiries**, contact [dcyf\\_csp\\_adolescents@state.mn.us](mailto:dcyf_csp_adolescents@state.mn.us).

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## Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families

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