



Department of Children and Family Services' Department of Healthcare and Family Services Medical Card

Qualifications and Procedures

- A child/youth who is in the legal custody of DCFS and placed in substitute care.
- A child/youth in the legal custody of DCFS, who is placed in certain living arrangements on the last day in substitute care may receive a medical extension for a year when returning to the home of parent or upon case closure of the child/youth case.
- Youth, who are age 18 when returned to the home of parent or upon case closure, are eligible for a medical extension up to age 19.
- Parenting youth in the legal custody of DCFS, and live in substitute care, will receive a medical card for their children who reside with them.
- The medical card is valid for one month at a time and is mailed monthly.
- The medical card is mailed to the same address as the financial assistance for the child/youth. Keep those addresses current.
- The medical card goes with the child/youth if a change in placement occurs.

HFS Medical Card Usage

- The medical card serves as a health insurance card for the child/youth. The card pays for many health care services, including medical and dental exams, immunizations, prescriptions, hospital care, etc. Keep it readily available at all times.
- The medical card can be used only with providers who are enrolled with the HFS and who accept the medical card and HFS payment as payment in full.
- Out-of-state providers must be enrolled in HFS and accept the medical card and HFS payment as payment in full.
- Some uses of the medical card may require prior approval. Examples are: prescriptions that are "non-preferred" drugs and some durable medical equipment and supplies (bath lifts, wheelchairs, oxygen, etc.). Contact your physician or pharmacist with questions.
- Non-emergency medical transportation requires prior approval and should be arranged through the DCFS regional medical liaison. Service may only be furnished by providers enrolled with HFS who accept the medical card and HFS payment as payment in full.
- If the medical card is lost, immediately contact your caseworker to request a replacement card.

DCFS Medical Card Hotline (1-800-228-6533: Monday through Friday - - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

- You should contact the Medical Card Hotline directly if you do not receive a medical card for a child/youth in your care.
- You should contact the Medical Card Hotline directly regarding medical extension eligibility requirements.
- You should notify your caseworker to contact the Medical Card Hotline if the address on the medical card needs to be changed or the child/youth's name and/or birth date is incorrect.
- Providers may call the Medical Card Hotline to verify the correct recipient number and periods of eligibility for a child/youth they are serving.
- A child/youth in DCFS custody should not be charged a co-pay. If this occurs, call the Medical Card Hotline for assistance.

