



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Bulletin

NUMBER

#16-21-02

DATE

March 22, 2016

OF INTEREST TO

County Directors

Financial Assistance
Supervisors and Staff

Social Services Supervisors
and Staff

Case Managers

Tribal Governments
(Tribes)

ACTION/DUE DATE

Please read information
and prepare for
implementation.

EXPIRATION DATE

March 22, 2018

DHS Clarifies MA Eligibility Rules for Non–Title IV-E Northstar Foster Care and Kinship Assistance

TOPIC

Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility rules for children receiving non–Title IV-E Northstar Foster Care or Kinship Assistance

PURPOSE

Clarify MA eligibility rules for children receiving non–Title IV-E Northstar Foster Care or Kinship Assistance

CONTACT

Health Care Eligibility Operations, counties, and tribal agencies should submit policy questions to HealthQuest.

All others should direct questions to the following:

Health Care Eligibility and Access (HCEA) Division
P.O. Box 64989
540 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55164-0989

SIGNED

NATHAN MORACCO
Assistant Commissioner
Health Care Administration

TERMINOLOGY NOTICE

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

I. Background

Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility for a child who receives Northstar Foster Care or Northstar Kinship Assistance is based on whether the child is eligible for funding under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. A child who is eligible for Title IV-E foster care or Title IV-E kinship assistance is automatically eligible for MA beginning in the month of placement. Children who receive non–Title IV-E foster care or non–Title IV-E kinship assistance are not automatically eligible for MA and must qualify for MA by meeting the requirements of their basis of eligibility. Up to this point, parents' income counted for the month of placement when an application was filed on behalf of a child who was approved for non–Title IV-E foster care or non–Title IV-E kinship assistance. The inclusion of parental income when determining MA eligibility has made it difficult for some children to access health care services that month.

II. Changes to MA Household Composition and Income Deeming Rules for Children Who Receive Non–Title IV-E Northstar Foster Care or Kinship Assistance

Effective immediately, beginning with the month of placement, children are considered a household of one if they 1) apply for MA upon approval of non–Title IV-E Northstar Foster Care or non–Title IV-E Northstar Kinship Assistance and 2) are not receiving coverage through MA or MinnesotaCare in the month of application. Beginning with the month of placement, parental income deeming rules do not apply. For children who receive non–Title IV-E kinship assistance, the month in which the Northstar Kinship Assistance benefit agreement is effective is considered the month of placement.

Direct people who are applying on behalf of children receiving foster care or kinship assistance to apply at the county or tribal agency using the Minnesota Health Care Programs Application for Certain Populations (DHS-3876). These children should not apply through MNsure.

III. Action Required

Apply the rules outlined in Section II to applications you process on or after the date of this bulletin. Children who are already enrolled in MA or MinnesotaCare when placed in non–Title IV-E foster care or non–Title IV-E kinship assistance continue to be considered a household of one beginning the month after the month of placement.

IV. System Instructions

MAXIS: When processing the application of a child receiving non–Title IV-E Northstar Foster Care or non–Title IV-E Northstar Kinship Assistance, follow standard IV-E processing procedures, except do not use eligibility type “25” in HC ELIG. Use the eligibility type that is appropriate for the child’s basis of eligibility.

MMIS: Follow standard processing procedures.

V. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory



For accessible formats of this publication and additional equal access to human services, write to DHS.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-2670 or 800-657-3739 or use your preferred relay service. (ADA1 [9-15])