

# Medicaid 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.



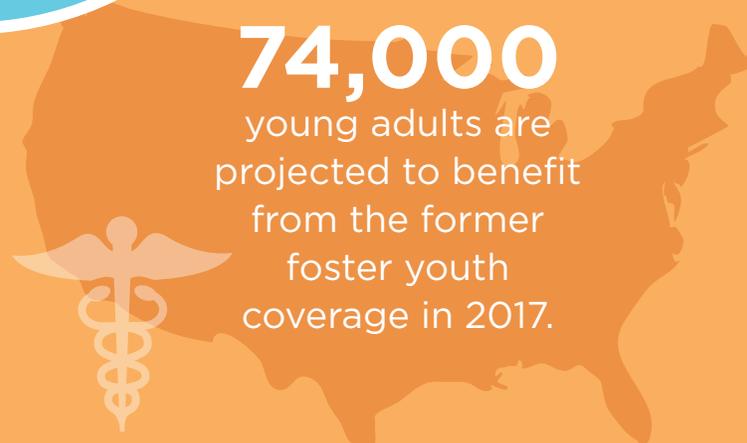
## Over 20,000

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



## 74,000

young adults are projected to benefit from the former foster youth coverage in 2017.



Cutting off Medicaid 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



Paulette