

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

# **Building and Transforming Coverage, Services, and Supports for a Healthier Virginia Section**

## **1115 Demonstration**

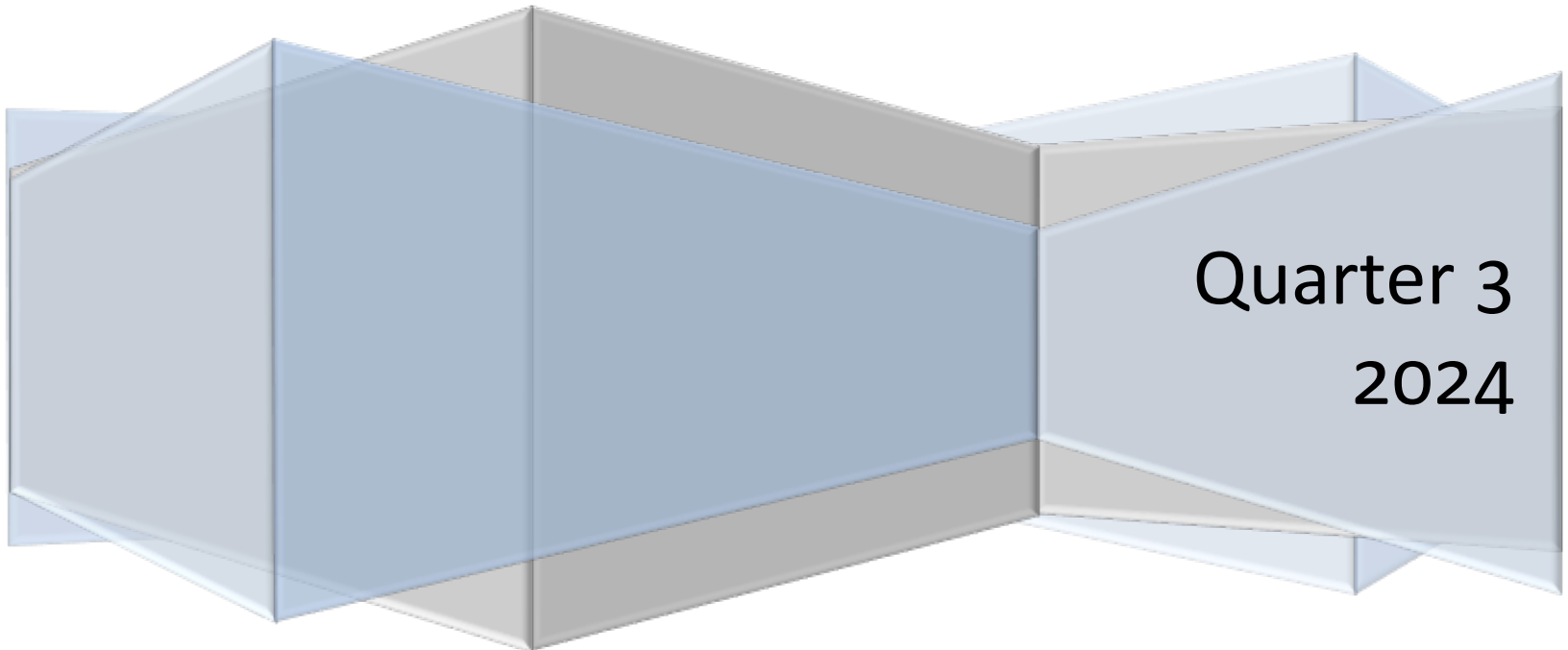
Section 1115 Quarterly Report –  
Former Foster Care Youth

Demonstration Waiver 1115  
Project 11 – W- 00297/3

Demonstration Year: 10 (01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024)

Quarter 3 (07/01/2024-09/30/2024)

Approval Period (1/1/2020-12/31/2024)



**Quarter 3  
2024**

# Former Foster Care Youth

## INTRODUCTION

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Individuals in foster care face a number of challenges upon the termination of their state custodianship, including access to health care. The “Former Foster Care Child Under Age 26 Years” Medicaid covered group provides an opportunity for this population to continue receiving Medicaid coverage until age 26, allowing these individuals time to transition into managing the responsibilities of living independently.

## BACKGROUND

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On March 23, 2010, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law, making a number of changes to Medicaid eligibility effective January 1, 2014. To further the overall goal of expanding health coverage, the ACA included section 2004, which added a new mandatory Medicaid covered group at section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(IX) of the Act to provide an opportunity for former foster care youth to obtain Medicaid coverage until age 26 from the state responsible for the individual’s foster care. DMAS initially received approval from CMS to cover former foster care youth who received their foster care and Medicaid in Virginia, as well as former foster care youth who received their foster care and Medicaid from another state but who are now living in Virginia.

In November 2016, CMS notified states that they could no longer cover the former foster care youth who received their services from another state but are now living in Virginia under the State Plan. States who wished to continue covering this population could do so under a Section 1115 Demonstration waiver.

In 2017, DMAS submitted and received approval of an amendment to the GAP Demonstration Waiver (now named “Building and Transforming Coverage, Services, and Supports for a Healthier Virginia”) to provide Medicaid coverage to former foster care youth who were enrolled in Medicaid and foster care in another state and who are now living in Virginia and are applying for Virginia Medicaid.

Most recently on December 30, 2019, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a five-year extension of Virginia’s Medicaid demonstration, Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services (ARTS) Delivery System Transformation (Project Number 11-W0029713). Under the approved Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) DMAS continues to provide coverage to FFCY up to age 26 who aged out of foster care in another state and now reside in Virginia.

## GOALS

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Virginia’s overall goal for the FFCY benefit is to provide former foster care youth with the access to health services they need, through the Demonstration Waiver.

The objectives of the FFCY demonstration are: (1) to increase and strengthen coverage of former foster care youth who were in Medicaid and foster care in a different state and (2) to improve or maintain health outcomes for these youth.

## ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFIT INFORMATION

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Individuals eligible in this demonstration group are those former foster care youth who: (1) were in the custody of another state or American Indian tribe, (2) were receiving foster care and Medicaid services until discharge from foster care upon turning age 18 or older, (3) are not eligible in a mandatory Medicaid coverage group, and (4) are under the age of 26. All individuals in the Former Foster Care Child Under Age 26 covered group receive the full Medicaid benefit package, including long-term supports and services, if medically necessary.

## ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT COUNTS

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**TABLE 1: FFCY Eligibility and Enrollment Information**

	<i><b>July 2024</b></i>	<i><b>Aug 2024</b></i>	<i><b>Sept 2024</b></i>	<i><b>Narrative</b></i>
<i><b>Total Enrollments</b></i>	85	79	73	<i>The number of total enrollments aligns with the State's expectations.</i>
<i><b>New Enrollments</b></i>	2	1	2	<i>The number of new enrollments aligns with Virginia's expectations. Virginia Medicaid's website includes resource material to highlight health care information for FFCY. Virginia includes questions about foster care in its Medicaid Application to identify potentially eligible recipients. Virginia also shares information about eligibility for FFCY from out of state through existing stakeholder meetings and statewide trainings.</i>
<i><b>Re- Enrollments</b></i>	0	0	0	<i>The number of reenrollments aligns with the State's expectations.</i>
<i><b>Disenrollments</b></i>	3	6	5	<i>The disenrollment number is aligned with Virginia's expectations. In February of 2024, Virginia initiated its last group of redeterminations out of the unwinding cohort from the national Public Health Emergency. Virginia expects to see disenrollment numbers continue to level out over the next several quarters. The historical primary reason for disenrollment is "aging out" of the program.</i>

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

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The waiver amendment to add the former foster care youth from out of state was approved in September 2017. Most recently on December 30, 2019, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a five-year extension of Virginia's Medicaid demonstration, through December 31, 2024.

On July 26, 2024, Virginia submitted an extension request to its BTCSSHV section 1115 demonstration to extend the substance use disorder (SUD) program and continue coverage for Former Foster Care Youth (FFCY) through December 31, 2029. Virginia also requested to remove authority for the High Needs Supports component of the demonstration. The federal public comment period was open from August 5, 2024 through September 4, 2024.

There have been no policy or administrative difficulties in operating the Former Foster Care Youth component of the demonstration waiver. There have been no challenges, issues, or complaints identified. Current enrollees in this 1115 waiver will continue to be covered under this waiver. Any new enrollees from other states who turned 18 prior to January 1, 2023 will also be enrolled under this 1115 waiver.

## PERFORMANCE METRICS

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By implementing the demonstration, Virginia anticipated increasing healthcare coverage for former foster care youth, while improving health outcomes. The demonstration has been successful in maintaining access to Medicaid for the former foster care youth who were in foster care and receiving Medicaid in another state and are now Virginia residents.

The evaluation design for the FFCY member population addresses two questions:

1. Does/did the demonstration provide continuous Medicaid coverage to former foster care individuals?
  - a. Virginia anticipates that beneficiaries will be continuously enrolled for 12 months
  - b. The metric for evaluating these hypotheses include number of beneficiaries continuously enrolled compared to total enrollees
2. How do/did former foster care individuals in the demonstration use Medicaid-covered healthcare services?
  - a. Virginia anticipates that beneficiaries will access health services.
  - b. The metrics for evaluating these hypotheses include number of beneficiaries who had the following: ambulatory care visit, emergency department visit, inpatient visit, and behavioral health encounter, compared to total beneficiaries.

## COLLECTION & VERIFICATION OF UTILIZATION & ENROLLMENT DATA

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The former foster care youth demonstration population are identified through Medicaid enrollment files. Monthly enrollment by eligibility group is tracked for all Medicaid members, and there are specific eligibility codes for those enrolled through the former foster care youth program. The enrollment files do not specifically identify whether enrollees were in foster care.

and Medicaid in a different state before they enrolled in Virginia Medicaid. To identify the demonstration population, we identify those enrolled in Medicaid through the former foster care youth program who were not continuously enrolled in Medicaid in the year prior to their 18th birthday.

The contracted evaluation team at Virginia Commonwealth University extracted enrollment and claims data for the demonstration population. All data was collected retrospectively through administrative data, and no prospective data (e.g., beneficiary surveys, interviews, focus groups, or other quantitative or qualitative data) was collected due to resource limitations and population size. The evaluation did not include pretest (or baseline) data because DMAS only has access to data on individuals in the demonstration after they receive Medicaid coverage. There are no changes to the evaluation design.

**BUDGET NEUTRALITY AND FINANCIAL REPORTING**

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The State’s budget neutrality workbook contains information for the period of July 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024. The information for DY10Q3 can be ascertained from the workbook.

**CONSUMER ISSUES**

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Benefits are provided through the state’s fee-for-service and managed-care delivery systems. No complaints or issues have been identified to date. The State has not received any grievances or appeals regarding eligibility or medical services for FFCY members for DY10Q3.

**CONTRACTOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

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No contracts needed to be amended when the FFCY component was added to this waiver. These individuals were previously covered under the Medicaid State Plan; therefore, no changes needed to be made when the waiver was approved.

**RECOVERY NAVIGATORS**

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The FFCY demonstration does not utilize Recovery Navigators.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

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There is nothing to report at this time.

**EVALUATION ACTIVITIES**

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**TABLE 2: FFCY Utilization Monitoring**

Month	Benes with Any Claim	Benes with Primary Care Appointments	Benes with Behavioral Health Appointments	Benes with Emergency Dept. Visits	Benes with Inpatient Visits
July 2024	38	9	2	11	1

August 2024	37	7	3	8	3
September 2024	33	10	1	8	1

The demonstration has been successful in maintaining access to Medicaid for the former foster care youth who were in foster care and receiving Medicaid in another state and are now Virginia residents. The data in Table 1 indicates that the number of beneficiaries with continuous health coverage decreased slightly across Q3, aligning with DMAS expectations. Due to the Public Health Emergency Unwinding and Section 1002(a) of the SUPPORT Act providing state plan coverage to individuals who turn 18 on or after January 1, 2023 Virginia anticipates fewer individuals qualifying for coverage under the demonstration, and fewer new enrollees.

Utilization data discussed in Table 2 indicates the FFCY beneficiaries covered in this demonstration have access to ambulatory care, emergency department, inpatient, and behavioral health visits. They also utilized services not chosen for monitoring, which indicates they have access to multiple types of services. The encounter claims indicate that 45% of FFCY beneficiaries utilized a service in July, 47% in August, and 45% in September. This is a slight increase from Q2. Virginia acknowledges that there is a lag in administrative claims data, and that data will be more complete for these months in future reports.

## CONCLUSION

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The demonstration was implemented as a measure to continue Medicaid coverage for former foster care youth who received their services in another state but who are now living in Virginia. The results indicate that the demonstration was effective in achieving the goals and objectives established at the beginning of the demonstration.

## STATE CONTACT(S)

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If there are any questions about the Former Foster Care contents of this report, please contact:

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