



## AAICAMA FAQs Series

### Medicaid and Title IV-E Adoption Assistance

#### **12. Question: Is it possible for a title IV-E adoption assistance eligible child to receive Medicaid past the age of eighteen?**

**Yes**, for children receiving title IV-E adoption assistance, Medicaid receipt is not considered separately from their adoption assistance eligibility. Adoption assistance eligibility is the basis for Medicaid eligibility for most title IV-E adoption assistance children.

The real question is, 'Can a child receive title IV-E adoption assistance past the age of eighteen?'

And the answer is, 'Yes, a child can receive title IV-E adoption assistance past the age of eighteen.'

It is the adoption assistance state's option to continue adoption assistance past the age of eighteen. If the adoption assistance state determines that a child has a mental or physical handicap that warrants the continuation of assistance, the state can continue assistance up to the age of 21. Since children who are title IV-E adoption assistance eligible are also eligible for Medicaid, the Medicaid would also continue in the state in which the child lives.

Practice issue: *Interstate implications of the extension of title IV-E adoption assistance past the age of eighteen.* It is at the option of the adoption assistance state to extend the receipt of adoption assistance past the age of eighteen and it is mandatory for states to provide Medicaid to title IV-E eligibles.

CMS Clarification: If a child lives in a state that ends title IV-E/Medicaid coverage for children receiving adoption assistance at an age *lower than the age to which the adoption assistance state extends a child's federal adoption assistance*, the state may refuse to provide Medicaid to the title IV-E eligible child. Depending on the resident state in which the youth lives, the youth's family may need to look to the adoption assistance state for Medicaid coverage/medical support. Currently, state practice in several states ends Medicaid coverage below the age to which resident youth receive title IV-E.

Cite: 42 U.S.C. 673 (a)(4); 42 U.S.C. §§1396a and 1396d.

U.S.C. refers to the United States Code  
C.F.R. refers to the Code of Federal Regulations