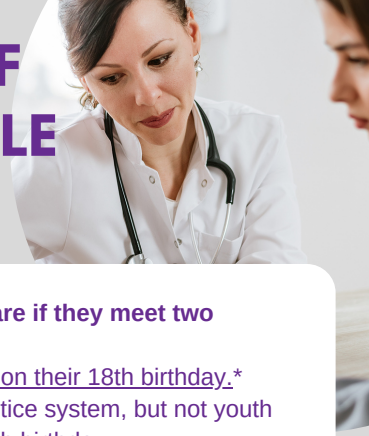


# YOUTH WHO AGE OUT OF FOSTER CARE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TENNCARE



**Eligibility: Former foster youth are eligible for TennCare if they meet two requirements.**

- Youth must have been in state custody in Tennessee on their 18th birthday.\* This includes many youth who were in the juvenile justice system, but not youth who were in a Youth Development Center on their 18th birthday.
- Youth must have been receiving TennCare at the time that they aged out. The vast majority of foster youth are on TennCare, so if you're not sure if you were on TennCare at 18, you should go ahead and apply.
- Former foster youth do NOT have to meet any income, school, work, or disability requirements to be on TennCare. You can get TennCare even if you are not in Extended Foster Care.

**TennCare Coverage & Eligibility lasts until your 26th birthday.**

- You can apply for coverage even if you were on TennCare before, but switched insurance providers.
- You can apply for coverage even if you used to have or currently have private health insurance through your school or work.
- If you meet a different TennCare eligibility requirement, you may be able to stay on TennCare after 26, but your automatic eligibility ends at 26.

**Are you under 26? Did you age out of foster care at 18 or 21? Do you need health insurance? You should apply for TennCare!**

**Apply at: <https://tenncareconnect.tn.gov/services/jsp/services/applynow.jsp>**

**Have questions? Need help applying? Contact Tennessee Justice Center for free and confidential help enrolling: <https://www.tnjustice.org/>**

**\*In January 2023, youth who moved to Tennessee after aging out of foster care in a different state will be eligible for TennCare.**

*Former Foster Youth under the age of 26 may be eligible for other kinds of support, like help paying for school. If you have questions about what kinds of services are available for former foster youth, contact the TN's Independent Living Program: <https://www.tn.gov/dcs/program-areas/youth-in-transition/il.html>.*

