

<p align="center">GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE</p>	<p align="center">Transmittal # 18-10</p>	<p align="center">Policy # 24.7</p>
<p>Applicability: {x} All DJJ Staff { } Administration { } Community Services { } Secure Facilities</p>	<p>Related Standards & References: DJJ 24.2, 24.3, 24.6</p>	
<p>Chapter 24: FEDERAL PROGRAMS</p>	<p>Effective: 6/11/18 Scheduled Date Review Date: 6/11/19</p>	
<p>Subject: FEDERAL BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE</p>	<p>Replaces: 8/31/17 Division of Finance</p>	
<p>Attachments: None</p>	<p>APPROVED:  _____ Avery D. Niles, Commissioner</p>	

I. POLICY:

The Department of Juvenile Justice shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws and rules that govern federal benefit eligibility for youth in secure confinement.

II. DEFINITIONS:

Community Case Manager (CCM): Juvenile Probation/Parole Specialist I, II, or III (JPPS) or Juvenile Probation Officer I or II who provides direct supervision and coordination of services for a youth. The Community Case Manager also includes any member of an established case management team who may perform case management tasks.

Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS): A Division within Department of Human Services responsible for investigations of child abuse, foster and adoption assistance services for abused and neglected children, assistance to low income families and individuals for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamp benefits (SNAP), health, human and social services such as Medicaid and a wide range of services for families in crisis.

Department of Public Health (DPH): The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is the lead agency in preventing disease, injury and disability; promoting health and well-being; and preparing for and responding to disasters from a health perspective.

Social Security Administration (SSA): An independent agency of the United States federal government that administers Social Security, a social insurance program consisting of retirement, disability, and survivors' benefits.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): The Social Security Administration manages a program funded by general tax revenues (not Social Security taxes) that assists the aged, blind, and disabled people who have limited income and resources by providing monthly cash payments to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

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Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI): The Social Security Administration manages a program that provides monthly benefits to qualified disabled individuals that are under full retirement age, earned required Social Security credits from earnings and have a severe medical impairment (physical or mental) that's expected to prevent an individual from doing "substantial" work for a year or more or has a condition that is expected to result in death.

Retirement Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI): The Social Security Administration manages a program that provides monthly benefits (also known as Social Security benefits) to qualified individuals who are retired or disabled. The dependents of eligible beneficiaries, as well as the surviving dependents of deceased workers, can also receive monthly benefits.

Medicaid: The federal and state-funded medical insurance program that provides health care services to individuals who meet the requirements for income, resources and citizenship. Medicaid provides support for pregnant women, children, low-income families with children, persons age 65 and older, and people who are blind or disabled. Medicaid also oversees a number of waiver programs that provide home and community based medical, behavioral and social services to enrollees. As part of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid administers Peach Care for Kids®, a comprehensive, managed care program for uninsured children in low-income families living in Georgia.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Also known as the Food Stamp Program, it is a program that provides monthly benefits to low-income households to help pay for the cost of food. A household may be one person living alone, a family, or several unrelated individuals living together who routinely purchase and prepare meals together.

Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS): Subsidized child care program to help low-income families afford quality affordable child care so that the parent/legal guardian may attend employment, school and/or a training program.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): A monthly cash assistance program with an employment services component for low-income families with children under age 18 and children age 18 who are attending school full-time.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC): The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program is a federally-funded health and nutrition program for infants and children age 1 to 5 years (including foster children), pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers (up to 1 year), and postpartum women (up to 6 months).

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III. PROCEDURES:

A. Eligible Youth

1. Youth in the community and pre-adjudicated youth in a RYDC are eligible for federal benefits.
2. Youth in a RYDC or YDC awaiting residential placement are only eligible for Fee for Service Medicaid (non-CMO managed Medicaid) provided through the Office of Federal Programs.

B. Youth Ineligible for Federal Benefits

1. Youth serving YDC time in a RYDC or YDC are not eligible for federal benefits.
2. The Community Case Manager (CCM) will inform the parent/guardian that it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to report to the responsible agency (i.e. SSA, DFCS or DPH) if they no longer have physical custody of the youth to allow the adjusting, suspension, or termination of the federal benefits. The CCM will document the conversation in JTS case notes.

C. In compliance with federal and state laws the Office of Federal Programs will report newly confined youth to the agencies managing their federal benefits.

1. The Office of Federal Programs in partnership with the Office of Technology and Information Services will report the names of newly confined youth to SSA monthly.
 - a. A youth's SSI benefits will be suspended after the youth is confined in a secure facility for more than 30 days.
 - b. A youth's SSDI or RSDI benefits will be suspended 30 days following adjudication.
 - c. After 12 months, SSA may terminate all benefits of a confined youth.
2. The Office of Federal Programs will report to DFCS the names of all newly confined youth serving YDC time. DFCS will suspend or terminate benefits such as TANF, Medicaid, CAPS, WIC, and Food Stamps as a result of this notification.
3. If a youth serving YDC time is Medicaid eligible and is treated in an inpatient hospital setting for more than 24 hours, Medicaid may be temporarily reactivated to cover those costs.

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- D. The CCM shall ensure that the social security number of all youth serving YDC time is entered into the JTS demographics module upon admission.
- E. The CCM shall discuss a youth's private health care insurance with the parent/guardian upon the youth's admission to a residential placement or YDC.
 - 1. DJJ staff or contractors shall not advocate for the removal of a youth from their parent/guardian's private health insurance policy while the youth is in a non-secure residential placement or while the youth is serving YDC time in a RYDC or YDC.
 - 2. Youth in non-secure residential placements should retain their private insurance coverage and Medicaid will become a secondary payer, or the payer of last resort.
 - 3. If the parent/guardian discloses intent to drop the youth from their private health insurance coverage, the CCM will advise the parent/guardian to contact the insurance company about their policy's guidelines related to dependents, qualifying events and how/when to add their dependent back to the insurance policy.
 - a. The CCM will have a follow-up conversation with the parent/guardian on the outcome of the inquiry into their insurance policy's guidelines and document the conversation in JTS case notes.
 - b. Prior to youth returning home after serving YDC time, the CCM will remind the parent to add their youth back to their private insurance coverage per their insurance policy's guidelines.
- F. The Office of Federal Programs will manage processes to assist youth and their families with reapplying for benefits for confined youth prior to or upon reentry into the community (see DJJ 24.2, Georgia Compass; 24.3, Social Security Administration Pre-Release Program; and 24.6, Expected Benefit Application Processing for Pre-Adjudicated Youth in RYDC and Youth in the Community).

IV. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: NO