



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Med-QUEST Division
Health Care Services Branch
P.O. Box 700190
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

January 28, 2021

MEMORANDUM

MEMO NO.

QI-2103

FFS 21-02

TO: QUEST Integration Health Plans, Fee-For-Service Providers

FROM: Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD *JMP*
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

SUBJECT: MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES UNDER THE
COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION (COFA) CITIZENS

The Med-QUEST Division of the Hawai'i Department of Human Services is strongly committed to ensuring every Hawai'i resident has access to quality health care. That's why we're glad to report that beginning December 27, 2020, Hawai'i residents who are citizens of one of the Freely Associated States under the Compact of Free Association (COFA), have been eligible for Medicaid. This means citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia who reside in Hawai'i can now receive the same benefits as any other Medicaid beneficiaries in our state. Please note this is not a limited or special coverage program. Coverage is for the same Managed Care health plans that others in our community are members of.

This significant, new milestone was the result of more than two decades of relentless advocacy and we appreciate Hawai'i's current congressional leaders for networking with their colleagues in Washington D.C. to take this important legislation across the finish line. The resulting law reduces health access disparities in communities and enhances health equity in our aloha state.

We need your kōkua

As a healthcare provider, you play a vital role in ensuring these Hawai'i residents receive Medicaid coverage. If you have any patients or their family members, keiki to kūpuna, who are

uninsured, please refer them to the following Med-QUEST web page to sign up for coverage, which has instructions in various languages: https://medquest.hawaii.gov/en/about/recent-news/2021/COFA_Medicaid.html

This web page offers different ways to sign up for Medicaid coverage:

- Online
Visit <https://medical.mybenefits.hawaii.gov>
- Phone
Call (808) 524-3370 on O'ahu or 1 (800) 316-8005 on the neighbor islands
- Pick up a paper application from any Med-Quest office, complete the form and drop it off at the box outside the office during office hours M-F 7:45 am – 4:30 pm
- In-Person Support
Meet with a Kokua from the Med-QUEST community partners to complete an application. For a list of community partners, click on <https://medquest.hawaii.gov/en/resources/community-partners.html>

Thank you for your partnership and assistance in helping us reach out to these residents! If you have any questions, please contact Meredith Nichols at mnichols@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Signature: 

Email: jmohrpeterson@dhs.hawaii.gov