

Foundational Community Supports FAQ

Enrollment pause & waitlist

This FAQ answers frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the Foundational Community Supports' (FCS) enrollment pause and waitlist, including those [for FCS providers](#).

Background

What's going on?

The FCS program¹ provides much-needed supported employment and supportive housing services across Washington State. Historically, the FCS program has underspent and enrolled more people than initially projected.

The year 2023 was the biggest enrollment year for the FCS program. Last year, we saw an unprecedented increase in new enrollments, and fewer individuals disenrolling from the FCS program. As a result, **the FCS program is now over-enrolled, and enrollment has reached budgetary limits for 2024.**

Action

How is the state addressing the situation?

To reduce the risk of overspending, the FCS program—including supported employment and supportive housing services—will pause (put a hold on) new enrollments. During the enrollment pause:

- Potentially new enrollees can request FCS services by submitting an assessment and be placed on a waitlist.
- The Health Care Authority (HCA) will work with Wellpoint WA, the third-party administrator for the FCS program, and FCS providers to determine which FCS enrollees are inactive.
 - Inactive enrollees are individuals who have not accessed FCS services within the last 90 days.
- FCS providers, with support from Wellpoint WA, will contact inactive enrollees to confirm they:
 - No longer need FCS services.
 - Want to continue receiving FCS services.

When will the enrollment pause end?

Enrollment will reopen when the number of enrollees reaches the forecasted number of enrollees for a given month. As space becomes available, Wellpoint WA will evaluate the new assessments from the waitlist and follow the standard documentation and eligibility determination process.

Authorization, waitlist, & eligibility

How will HCA manage the waitlist for new assessments?

The waitlist is on a first-come, first-served basis, under [Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\) 182-559-100](#).

¹ FCS is not an entitlement benefit and limited to funding approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Legislature under Washington's Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver. We call the waiver the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP).

Can a current FCS enrollee receive additional services?

Yes. Current enrollees may be re-authorized for and receive additional services, as long as they remain eligible for FCS services.

Can providers submit “Exception to Rule” (ETR) requests for current enrollees?

Yes. ETRs may continue to be authorized for current enrollees if sufficient supporting documentation is submitted and approved.

Can a current FCS enrollee switch programs or enroll in an additional service during the pause?

Yes. If eligible for the other service, currently authorized enrollees may switch programs.

What happens if an enrollee loses their FCS eligibility? Will they be disenrolled?

If an enrollee loses eligibility, HCA and Wellpoint WA will try to reconnect the individual to the FCS program, so long as their service authorization remains open. This means that as long as an enrollee remains eligible for FCS services and has a valid authorization, they may continue to receive services.

Other program impacts

How will the enrollment pause affect Apple Health and Homes (AHAH)?

Nothing in AHAH will change because of the FCS enrollment pause. AHAH launch dates, prioritization processes, and housing voucher drawings will proceed as normal. New assessments received during the pause or during a period with an active waitlist will be added to the waitlist and screened on a first-come, first-served basis as space becomes available in FCS.

How will the enrollment pause affect the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)?

Currently, FCS TAP funds are depleted and will be replenished on or around July 1, 2024. Subject to the availability of funding, TAP will be able to serve current FCS supportive housing enrollees.

How will the enrollment pause affect the Glidepath program?

This program serves current FCS supported employment enrollees who have a referral for the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program. New HEN recipients automatically receive a letter indicating their potential eligibility for FCS supported employment; however, they are still required to submit an assessment for FCS services. This assessment will be put on the waitlist and processed on a first-come, first-served basis during the enrollment pause.

Can a new FCS provider without an FCS caseload be able to enroll participants?

During the enrollment pause, any FCS provider is encouraged to submit an eligibility assessment on behalf of anyone who wishes to receive services. New assessments will be placed on a first-come, first-served waitlist and eligibility will be determined as space becomes available.

Funding

How is the FCS budget determined?

This budget is primarily driven by the number of enrollments and engaged enrollees in each month. Each year, HCA submits a Decision Package to the Governor's Office and the Office of Financial Management. Decision Packages provide updated, projected enrollments and service utilization trends based on historical data.

Who authorizes the FCS budget?

HCA updates this budget annually with CMS, our federal partner. The Washington State Legislature approves HCA's authority to spend federal funds.

Will the FCS program receive more funding?

Funding is authorized on an annual basis, and expenditures may not exceed what is authorized by the Legislature. Expenditure authority is currently approved for fiscal year (FY) 2025, which includes an increase in funding over FY 2024. The FCS program is still required to stay within its authorized budget for FY 2025 and may need to implement future enrollment pauses, based on the availability of funding.

For FCS providers

I'm a new or a prospective FCS provider without an FCS caseload. Will I be able to enroll participants (enrollees)?

During the enrollment pause, we encourage any FCS provider to submit an eligibility assessment on behalf of a potential enrollee who wants to receive services. New assessments will be placed on the waitlist and addressed on a first-come, first-served basis. As space becomes available, the FCS program will determine a person's eligibility.

How can providers disenroll enrollees who are not engaged with services?

If you know an enrollee is no longer engaged nor wishes to receive services, you can submit a disenrollment request to Wellpoint WA at any time. During the initial phases of the enrollment pause, Wellpoint WA will be contacting each provider with a list of enrollees who have not received an FCS service in the past 90 days. Providers will have 10 business days to confirm an enrollee's active or inactive status prior to disenrolling them from the program.

What happens if an enrollee was inappropriately disenrolled?

If this occurs, the enrollee will be reconnected to their FCS services, backdated to the date of their disenrollment, as long as they remain eligible for FCS services.

What happens if an assessment was inappropriately denied?

FCS assessments have a five-day turnaround time for initial eligibility determination. If the assessment is initially denied, providers have 14 calendar days to resubmit necessary documentation for reconsideration. If no documentation is received within that period, or it is determined the assessment is ineligible for services, the next assessment on the list will be screened for eligibility.

Can I see where an assessment is on the waitlist?

A provider may contact their FCS manager at Wellpoint to inquire about the status of a particular assessment on the waitlist.