

Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC) and Tailored Supports for Older Adults (TSOA) FAQ

Enrollment pause and waitlist

This FAQ answers frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC) and Tailored Supports for Older Adults (TSOA) enrollment pause and waitlist.

Background

What's going on?

The MAC and TSOA programs¹ provide much-needed support to unpaid family caregivers and care receivers across Washington State. Historically, the MAC and TSOA programs have underspent.

Last year, we saw an unprecedented increase in new enrollments and expenditures. As a result, the MAC and TSOA program is projected to overspend this demonstration year's budgetary limits therefore enrollments must be paused, and a statewide waitlist will be implemented.

Action

How is the state addressing the situation?

To reduce the risk of overspending, the MAC and TSOA programs will pause (put a hold on) new enrollments.

During the enrollment pause:

- Potential enrollees can continue to contact the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Home and Community Services (HCS) to discuss options regarding available home and community-based programs, services, and supports. The full range of available programs, services, providers, and settings will be reviewed with the potential enrollee, and they will be notified that there is a pause in enrollments for the MAC and TSOA programs. Potential enrollees will be provided with enough information to understand options that best suit their needs.

¹ The MAC and TSOA programs are not an entitlement benefit and limited to funding is 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 2.0).

- If a potential enrollee indicates interest in the MAC and TSOA programs, they can be added to the MAC and TSOA statewide waitlist per their request. The potential MAC and TSOA enrollee will need to provide basic demographic information as well as if they have an identified unpaid family caregiver to be added to the statewide waitlist.
- MTP (MAC and TSOA) Presumptive Eligibility screenings will no longer be completed, and PE services will no longer be authorized.

When will the enrollment pause end?

Enrollment will reopen when program expenditures fall below the budgeted forecast for the demonstration year.

Due to many variables, there is no set timeline for when the enrollment pause will end. Further updates and instructions will be provided in future communications.

When will MAC/TSOA Presumptive Eligibility (PE) services be available again?

Per WA State's agreement with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), once the MAC and TSOA programs implement a waitlist, the authority for MAC and TSOA Presumptive Eligibility terminates. Therefore, MAC and TSOA Presumptive Eligibility Screenings will be paused.

Waitlist and Eligibility

How will the waitlist for new assessments be managed?

The waitlist is on a first-come, first-served basis, upon their request date. This is outlined under [Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\) 388-106-1975](#).

Will currently enrolled MAC and TSOA participants be disenrolled?

No. Those currently enrolled in the MAC or TSOA programs will maintain their enrollment status.

Will currently enrolled MAC and TSOA participants on PE be disenrolled or have services stopped?

No. MAC or TSOA PE participants that are enrolled prior to the start of the waitlist will be able to continue receiving services under PE until their PE period ends or their final

eligibility determination is completed, whichever comes first. If determined both fully functionally and financially eligible, services will continue.

Funding

How is the MAC/TSOA budget determined?

The budget for each fiscal year (FY) for the MAC/TSOA services was approved by CMS in the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) as part of the WA Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP 2.0) waiver renewal which runs through June 30, 2028. In the renewal, each fiscal year has a budget limit and the MAC/TSOA programs must keep service spending under the agreed upon amount.