Foundational Community Supports Transition Assistance Program FAQ

Washington | Medicaid

What is the Foundational Community Supports Transition Assistance Program (FCS TAP)?

TAP is a program designed to support Foundational Community Supports-Supportive Housing (FCS-SH) enrollees. It provides time-limited, flexible funding that covers housing-related costs, including move-in expenses, first and last month's rent, deposits, and non-refundable fees. TAP is coordinated with the Community Behavioral Health Rental Assistance program (CBRA), Section 8 (both project-based and Housing Choice Voucher), and other long-term rental assistance programs.

What are the eligibility criteria for FCS TAP?

To qualify for FCS TAP funding, an individual must meet all the following requirements:

1. Be actively receiving FCS-eligible Medicaid.
2. Be currently authorized to receive FCS-SH services and have active FCS-SH enrollment segments in ProviderOne.
3. Identify as experiencing a behavioral health treatment need.
4. Be undergoing a housing transition.

What documentation is required for FCS TAP?

Keep an updated FCS-SH care plan, participant agreement, moving attestation, and documentation in subsequent progress notes. Retain receipts and other documents related to TAP expenses in the enrollee file or agency accounting office. All enrollees who receive TAP funds must have a signed copy of the FCS TAP Participant Agreement included in their file.

Does an FCS-SH enrollee need to have their behavioral health treatment verified to use FCS TAP funding?

Care providers must specify the behavioral health treatment needs by selecting the treatment need for the FCS enrollee on the online FCS TAP Request Form when submitting to

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Wellpoint. However, a behavioral health diagnosis does not need to be validated to access FCS TAP funding.

How can FCS-SH enrollees access FCS TAP?

FCS-SH enrollees must request TAP funds through their FCS-SH provider, not directly.

Does an FCS-SH enrollee need to have Medicaid to access TAP?

Yes, an FCS-SH enrollee must actively receive FCS-eligible Medicaid. If an enrollee's Medicaid account is inactive or they do not have FCS-eligible Medicaid, the provider cannot use FCS TAP funding. Review the Medicaid Eligibility Check for FCS (PDF) document to see the benefit service packages and Recipient Aid Category (RAC) codes that qualify for FCS.

How can we determine if someone is authorized to receive FCS-SH services?

Care providers receive an FCS service authorization from Wellpoint for anyone who is determined eligible for FCS-SH services. Additionally, it is the provider's responsibility to ensure FCS-SH enrollment segments are active and correct in ProviderOne. See the FCS Enrollment Inquiry Process Guide (PDF).

What housing expenses are covered by FCS TAP?

FCS TAP covers costs to help FCS-SH enrollees:

- Mitigate immediate barriers to housing.
- Obtain a place to call home.
- Establish a long-term residence.

FCS-SH providers can spend up to $15,000 per enrollee within 12 months on housing and related expenses. Ongoing rent payments cannot be made using FCS TAP. Only the first and last month of rent, along with other move-in costs, can be paid in full. The first month of rent may be prorated. To seek additional funding, an Exception to Policy (ETP) request must be submitted.

TAP-eligible items and the rate of each item:

TAP funding category	Items covered	Can spend
IDs and other documentation	Identification documents/cards Birth Certificates Social Security cards	Up to $120 each
Application fees	Rental application fees Background check	Up to $100 each

TAP funding category	Items covered	Can spend
	Credit check	
Transitional housing fees	Fees associated with entering certain transitional housing, such as urinalysis	Up to $100 each
Relocation expenses *Can be used once per 12-month period.	Moving vehicle rental Moving supplies	Up to $1,500 total
Move-in assistance *Can be used once per 12-month period.	Any appropriate and reasonable non-refundable fees (fees may be annualized) (Not HRSN eligible)	Up to $1,500 total:
Security deposit *Can be used once per 12-month period.	Security deposit	Up to 200% FMR (based on home size and county)
First month's rent *Can be used once per 12-month period.	First month's rent	Up to 150% FMR (based on home size and county)
Last month's rent *Can be used once per 12-month period.	Last month's rent (Not HRSN Eligible)	Up to 150% FMR (based on home size and county)
Utility set-up fees	Gas Electric Water Sewer Garbage Internet Phone service Recycling	Up to $200 per utility service (including mobile devices and internet)

TAP funding category	Items covered	Can spend
Pantry stocking *Once per year; upon move in	Pantry stocking	Up to $500 once per year
Basic household goods and furniture	Appliances and utensils Kitchen items for food preparation and consumption Bedding Furnishings Cribs Bathroom supplies Cleanings supplies Other	Up to $2500
Arrears	Rental (Not HRSN eligible) Note: A rental ledger reflecting the amount requested must be included with TAP Request	Up to $1500 *Enrollee must be making a housing transition
Arrears	Utility Note: A copy of the utility statement reflecting the amount requested must be included with the TAP Request	Up to 130% utility FMR (based on housing size)
Home modifications	Reasonably priced home modifications approved by landlords **(not HRSN eligible)**	Up to $2500

Can FCS TAP cover expenses not listed as allowable?

Care providers are encouraged to submit an ETP request to Wellpoint if an item is not listed on the approved list above, acts as a barrier to housing transition, or if funding requests exceed $15,000 within 12 months.

Wellpoint determines whether the FCS TAP ETP request can be approved. All decisions are contingent on funding availability. ETP requests require a care provider to submit a narrative description that explains an enrollee's current situation and how FCS TAP funding will help the enrollee achieve their established housing goals. Requests for rental and utility arrears must include documentation with the TAP request form. This documentation should be a copy of the client's rental ledger or other official proof showing the total amount owed for rental arrears. For utility arrears, the documentation must be a copy of the utility statement or other official proof indicating the amount owed.

Does FCS TAP cover rent beyond the initial move-in costs, such as the first and last month's rent?

Initial move-in costs, such as the first and last month's rent and related fees like security deposit, pet fee, and parking fee, can be covered. FCS TAP does not pay ongoing rent. Only the first and last month of rent can be paid in full, and the first month can be prorated. While exceptions may be considered depending on funding availability, ongoing rent cannot be covered by FCS TAP.

How do I request an ETP on behalf of the FCS-SH enrollee seeking to use TAP?

Fill out the online FCS TAP Request Form and specify the request as an ETP in the relevant fields.

How long does it take to receive payments from Wellpoint for approved FCS TAP funds?

The online FCS TAP Request Form enables care providers to submit TAP funding requests at any time. All required fields must be completed for Wellpoint to make a funding decision. Wellpoint will pay care providers for approved FCS TAP expenses within 20 business days after the care provider's online reimbursement request is approved.

Note: Care providers receiving payment via electronic funds transfer (EFT) will be reimbursed more quickly than those awaiting reimbursement by mail.

Some FCS enrollees are currently eligible for extended rental assistance programs. Can they use FCS TAP?

Absolutely. When an FCS enrollee receives longer-term rental assistance from local, state, or federal affordable housing programs — including rental aid — FCS TAP can cover move-in costs and other initial expenses, potentially offering additional funding to help make a new apartment feel like home. FCS TAP can fund various costs before, during, and shortly after a housing transition. The program also aims to provide support where longer-term rental assistance programs fall short.

Will FCS TAP assistance be paid directly to the FCS-SH enrollees?

No, all funds will be paid directly to the FCS-SH enrollees' assigned FCS provider, who will then pay entities that provide goods and/or services, such as landlords, property management companies, utility providers, and other relevant entities.

If an FCS-SH enrollee previously requested funds that were found ineligible, can they request funding again in the future?

Yes, previous denials of FCS TAP funding do not affect an FCS-SH enrollee's ability to request future funding unless they are no longer eligible for FCS-SH services.

Do FCS TAP requests need to be made within a certain time after discharge for an FCS-SH enrollee to qualify?

No, FCS TAP provides funding assistance to FCS-SH enrollees who want to move into quality, affordable housing of their choice. While one goal of FCS TAP is to engage enrollees discharging from behavioral health inpatient settings, all FCS-SH enrollees needing behavioral health treatment are eligible when making housing transitions.

Are individuals who are not being discharged from inpatient facilities eligible to receive FCS TAP funding?

Yes, if an FCS-SH enrollee requires behavioral health treatment and is undergoing a housing transition, then they are eligible to use FCS TAP funds. Care providers must complete an attestation form from the enrollee confirming the move.

Can we bill for assisting an FCS-SH enrollee in using TAP funds?

When care providers assist with the housing search, identification, or obtainment for FCS-SH enrollees, they can bill for services through FCS-SH. Also, providing FCS TAP funding on behalf of an FCS-SH enrollee is considered a billable service.

Administrative functions related to providing FCS TAP are not reimbursable. However, the program aims to boost the number of billable services linked with FCS TAP through per diem enrollee engagement.

Can FCS TAP assist families if only one member is enrolled in FCS?

FCS TAP can only help FCS-SH enrollees with specific housing-related costs. If an FCS-SH enrollee plans to live with others, FCS TAP can only provide funding if the enrollee resides in the home with a valid roommate agreement or lease.

Do we need to get blanket approval for FCS TAP spending first, or is approval required for each expense?

All FCS TAP requests must be approved in advance before a provider can make a payment. Providers are only allowed to spend on behalf of the enrollee who meets the eligibility criteria and for items covered in the FCS TAP Quick Reference Guide.

Can we request the entire amount of funding available to a client in one request?

Enrollees can receive up to $15,000 in TAP funds within 12 months; however, they do not automatically receive the full amount. Each request must specify the items or services needed and the exact or estimated costs. Requests that reach the maximum amount may require additional review and could be rejected if the provider needs to supply further information.

Can FCS TAP help with moving into assisted living or retirement communities?

No, FCS TAP is only available to FCS enrollees for accessing independent housing of their choice. FCS TAP does not cover costs associated with entry and living in assisted living facilities. When an enrollee wants to move to an independent rental setting, FCS TAP can be used.

What expenses are not covered by TAP funding?

TAP cannot cover the following:

- Vehicle purchases or repairs
- RV/trailer purchases or repairs
- Washer/dryer unit purchases or repairs
- Stove/oven purchases or repairs
- Medical copays
- Personal hygiene products such as deodorant and soap

- Debt beyond any related to a previous housing circumstance where rent and/or utilities are owed
- Disbursal of funding directly to an enrollee cannot occur under any circumstances
- Clothing
- Transportation costs

Can we request a review of a denied or rejected request?

Yes, you have 60 days from the date you received the denial or rejection to request a review and reprocessing of your request. After 60 days, all decisions are final.

How quickly must TAP funds be spent after they are approved?

TAP funding should be used on behalf of the client within 90 days of receiving the funds. Exceptions can be requested on a case-by-case basis by emailing the TAP inbox at TransitionAssistanceFCS@Wellpoint.com.

Can we use any excess TAP funds leftover from a request for an enrollee?

Yes, if you have additional funds leftover from a request, those funds can be used for the same enrollee for any covered item under TAP. Please document this use in the client's case notes.

Can we use TAP funds for purposes other than those for which they were originally requested?

If a client wants to use the TAP funds for a different purpose than originally requested after the request has been approved, providers can allocate the funds to other items or services if TAP would cover them. This change must be documented in the enrollee's case notes. If TAP does not cover the new item or service, the funds cannot be used for it.

How do I return excess funds to Wellpoint?

Excess funds can be returned to the TAP program by submitting the TAP Overpayment Notification Form. Please complete the form and send a copy, along with the funds, to the address listed on the Overpayment form. All payments should be made payable to Wellpoint.

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