



**Employment
Security
Department**
WASHINGTON STATE

Washington State
Health Care Authority

LTSS Trust Commission Meeting



April 29, 2026

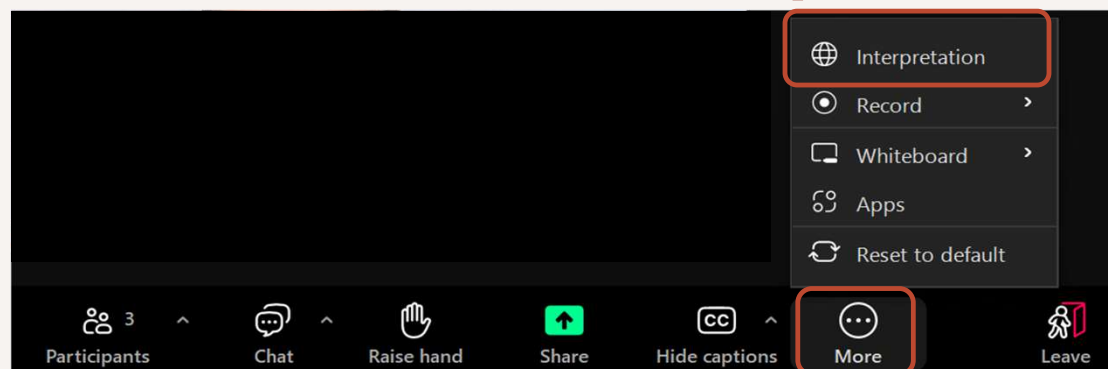


Get slides and materials at wacaresfund.wa.gov/commission

Language Interpretation – Zoom Setup

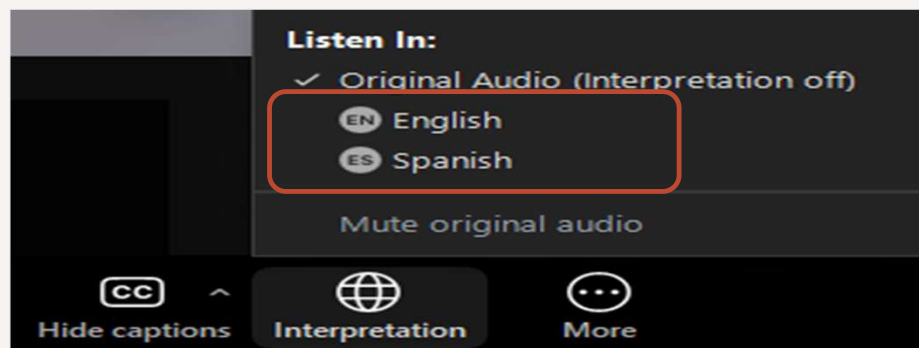
Step 1:

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- Click on “Interpretation”



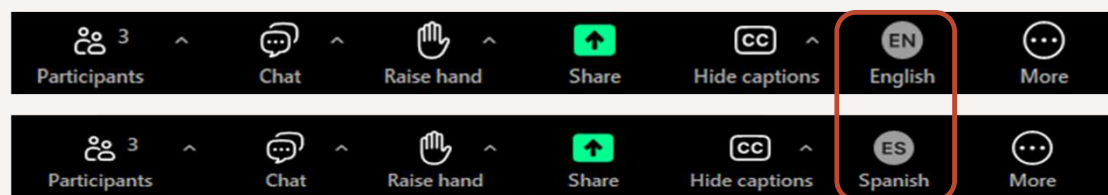
Step 2:

- Select the language you would like to listen in



Step 3:

- Verify this is the correct language



Meeting Guidelines

Commission Members

- Please turn on your video
- Stay muted unless talking
- Encourage active participation
- Raise hand to speak if necessary

Audience Members

- Opportunity to provide public comment later in the meeting

An aerial photograph of a city grid, with a circular area highlighted in a light gray color. The grid consists of numerous streets and blocks, with a central area that appears to be a downtown or business district. The circular highlight is centered on the right side of the image, overlapping the city grid.

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Goals

- Listen to Understand Respectfully
- Approve Consent Agenda
- Receive Program Update
- Receive Rulemaking Update
- Receive Finance Update
- Receive Investment Performance Update
- Receive OSA's Planned Work for 2026
- Receive Pilot Update
- Review Commission Workgroups for 2026
- Receive Plans for Commission Report Outs for Program Launch

Approve Consent Agenda

- 12/10/2025 Commission Meeting Minutes

WA Cares Fund Program Refresh

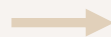
Andrea Meewes Sanchez, DSHS

Families need a better way to pay for care

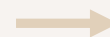
- WA Cares moves cost to years when your income is higher
- Public insurance model covering all workers keeps contribution rate low



Contribute at a low rate
during working years



Contributions end
after retirement



Access benefits
when you need care

How it works

Automatically contribute

Contribute **0.58% of your paycheck** during your working years



Use your benefits

Choose how to use your **\$36,500 lifetime benefit amount** (grows with inflation) on covered services



Qualify for benefits

Apply to access benefits if you've met contribution and care needs requirements.
Benefits become available in July 2026.

Contribution requirement

Meet requirements for one of three pathways to qualify

FULL BENEFIT AMOUNT

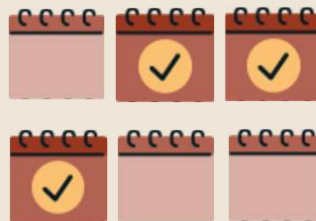
Permanent

Permanent access if contributed for **10+ years** at any point in career



Temporary

Temporary access if contributed at least **3 of last 6 years** at time you apply for benefits



PRO-RATED AMOUNT

Transition

if born before 1968

Permanent access to **10% of full benefit amount for each year** contributed



For example: 2 years earns 20% of full benefit amount

Care needs requirement

- Need help with **3+ activities of daily living**
- Will continue to need help for **at least 90 days**



Transferring



Medication
management



Bed mobility



Bathing



Mobility



Toileting



Eating

Use your benefits for any covered services

Up to **\$36,500** in services and supports from WA Cares providers

To help you stay at home

In-home care (individual provider or home care agency)

Home safety evaluations

Home modifications

Home-delivered meals

Transportation

Adaptive equipment and technology

Personal emergency response systems

Housework and yardwork

To support your family caregiver

Paid care from a loved one

Respite care in your home or a facility

Education and consultation

Dementia and behavioral supports

Care transition coordination

In your community

Adult family home

Adult day services

In a facility

Assisted living

Nursing home

Memory care services

Implementation Timeline



Program Update

Andrea Meewes Sanchez, DSHS

Ben Veghte, DSHS

Informing Medicaid LTC Applicants

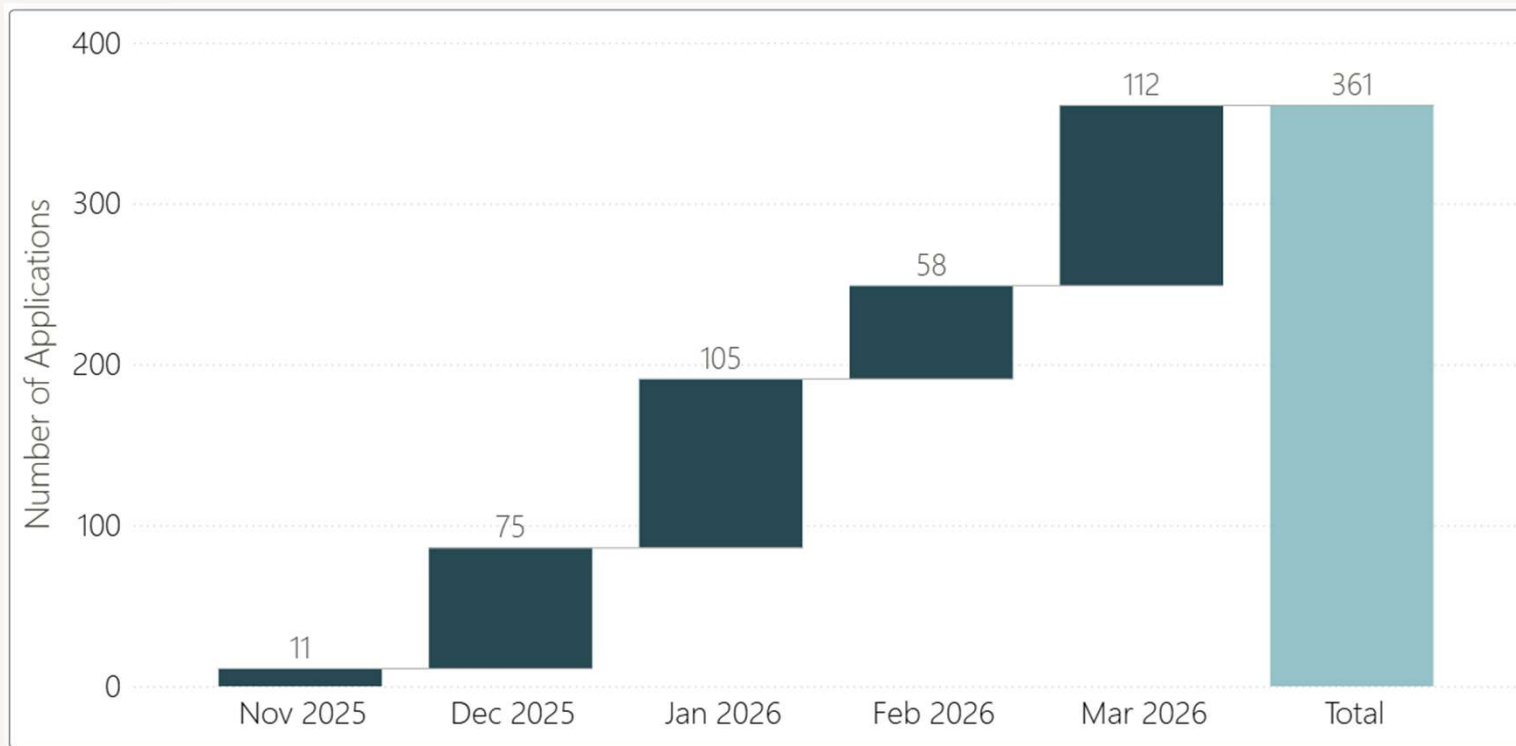
- No wrong door for long-term services and supports
- Applicants for Medicaid long-term care will be informed on WA Cares Fund Benefits as another option to meet their needs.
 - Home and Community Living Administration intake will present WA Cares Fund as an option and connect applicants to the program
 - Area Agencies on Aging continue to provide formal Options Counseling, and will now include WA Cares Fund benefits as another resource.

Target Wait Times

- Target wait time for calls: 3 minute on average
- Mix of permanent and project staff to manage influx of callers
- Ramp down starting FY28 to prepare for volume changes

Provider Recruitment for Program Launch

Provider Applications Registered, Over Time



Provider Recruitment for Program Launch

Areas of Strongest Recruitment

- In-home personal care (agency)
- Dementia and behavioral support
- Education and consultation
- Home-delivered meals
- Transportation

Current Focus Areas

- Adult Day Services
- Adult Family Home
- Assisted Living Facility
- Care Transition Coordination
- Home Safety Evaluation
- Nursing Home
- Professional Services

Rulemaking Update

Andrea Meewes Sanchez, DSHS

Kassandra Wilson, HCA

April Amundson, ESD

Tyler Langford, OIC

DSHS Rulemaking

DSHS is conducting two rulemaking projects:

- Revisions to chapter 388-116 WAC related to approved services and provider registration
 - Adds mobility devices to adaptive equipment and technology
 - Allows for-hire transportation providers
 - Simplifies background check requirements
- Services provided by financial management services (FMS) vendors
 - Transportation mileage reimbursement for family and friends of eligible beneficiaries
 - Purchases of adaptive equipment and technology

ESD Rulemaking

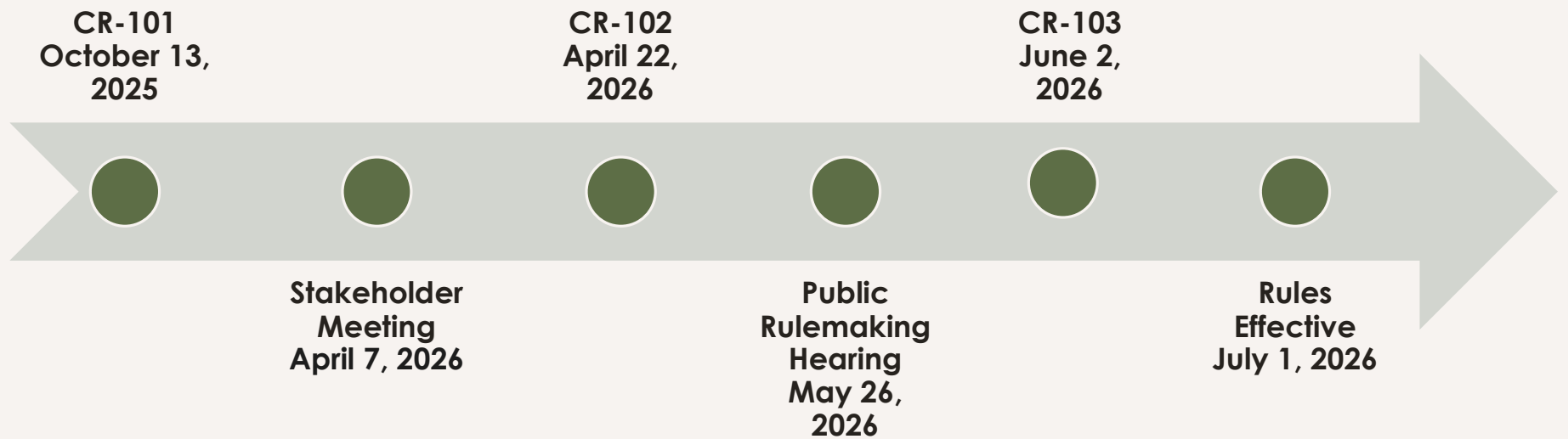
- **Timelines**

Three phases

- ✓ Phase 1: Pilot project, qualified individuals, exemptions, CBA (effective January 1, 2026)
- Phase 2: Portable coverage and reporting requirements (effective July 1, 2026)
- Phase 3: Penalties and interest (effective by January 1, 2027)

Rulemaking Timeline – Phase 2

ESSB 5291 - Out-of-state participation and reporting requirements



Timeline may be adjusted as needed

HCA Rulemaking

Content:

- The new rules (Chapter 182-600 WAC) implement the Health Care Authority's responsibilities outlined in RCW [50B.04.020\(2\)](#) for the WA Cares program.
- New rules include:
 - WAC 182-600-0100 Purpose and Scope
 - WAC 182-600-0200 Definitions
 - WAC 182-600-0300 WA Cares Fund Program Payments
 - WAC 182-600-0400 Coordination of Benefits
 - WAC 182-600-0500 Program Integrity – Activities
 - WAC 182-500-0600 Program Integrity – Outcomes
 - WAC 182-600-0700 Administrative Hearing

HCA Rulemaking

Process:

- [CR-101](#): Filed under WSR 25-19-032, filed on September 8, 2025
 - External review: December 2, 2025, through December 16, 2025
- [CR-102](#): Filed under WSR 26-04-047, filed January 27, 2026
 - Public Hearing: March 10, 2026
- [CR-103P](#): Filed under WSR 26-07-035, filed March 11, 2026

- **Effective Date of Rules: April 11, 2026**

**Rulemaking for WA Cares can be found on [HCA's website](#). This provides additional information on each filing and full draft text.*

Update on Supplemental Long-Term Care Insurance Rulemaking

LTSS Trust Commission

April 29, 2026



OFFICE of the
**INSURANCE
COMMISSIONER**
WASHINGTON STATE

Rulemaking Progress

- **CR-101 filed:** 6/29/2025
 - Comment period ended: 7/30/2025
- **Prepublication draft released:** 8/13/2025
 - Interested party meeting: 8/26/2025
 - Comment period ended: 8/27/2025
- **Second prepublication draft released:** 10/1/2025
 - Comment period ended: 10/22/2025
- **CR-102 filed:** 11/19/2025
 - Public hearing: 1/6/2026
- **CR-103 filed:** 2/4/2026
 - Rule effective: 3/7/2026

Questions?

Tyler Langford

Policy Analyst

Tyler.Langford@oic.wa.gov

To submit a public comment on the rule, email:

rulescoordinator@oic.wa.gov

[Rule webpage](#)

Finance Update



Luke Masselink, OSA

Ben Veghte, DSHS

Finance Update: Monitoring Early Experience

Presentation to:

LTSS Trust Commission

Luke Masselink, Senior Actuary

April 29, 2026



Finance Update: Monitoring Early Experience (1 of 2)

- As part of the Risk Management Framework (RMF), Phase 1 is largely focused on data collection, monitoring, and updating actuarial projections.
 - The “learning phase” will improve actuarial modeling and assumption setting.
 - Phase 1 intended to last until benefits have been paid for several years.
- During Phase 1, you will receive updates on actual premium collection, investment experience, and benefit experience.

Finance Update: Monitoring Early Experience *(2 of 2)*

- We will continue to monitor and report on emerging experience.
 - After the completion of a given fiscal year, we have updated you on how actual experience compared to what was assumed.
 - Short-term experience will often deviate from long-term assumptions so be careful about drawing long-term impacts from short-term experience.
- Future valuations will reflect updated experience, law changes, and assumption changes.

Thank You

For questions, please contact

[The Office of the State Actuary](#)

360-786-6140

State.Actuary@leg.wa.gov

Luke Masselink

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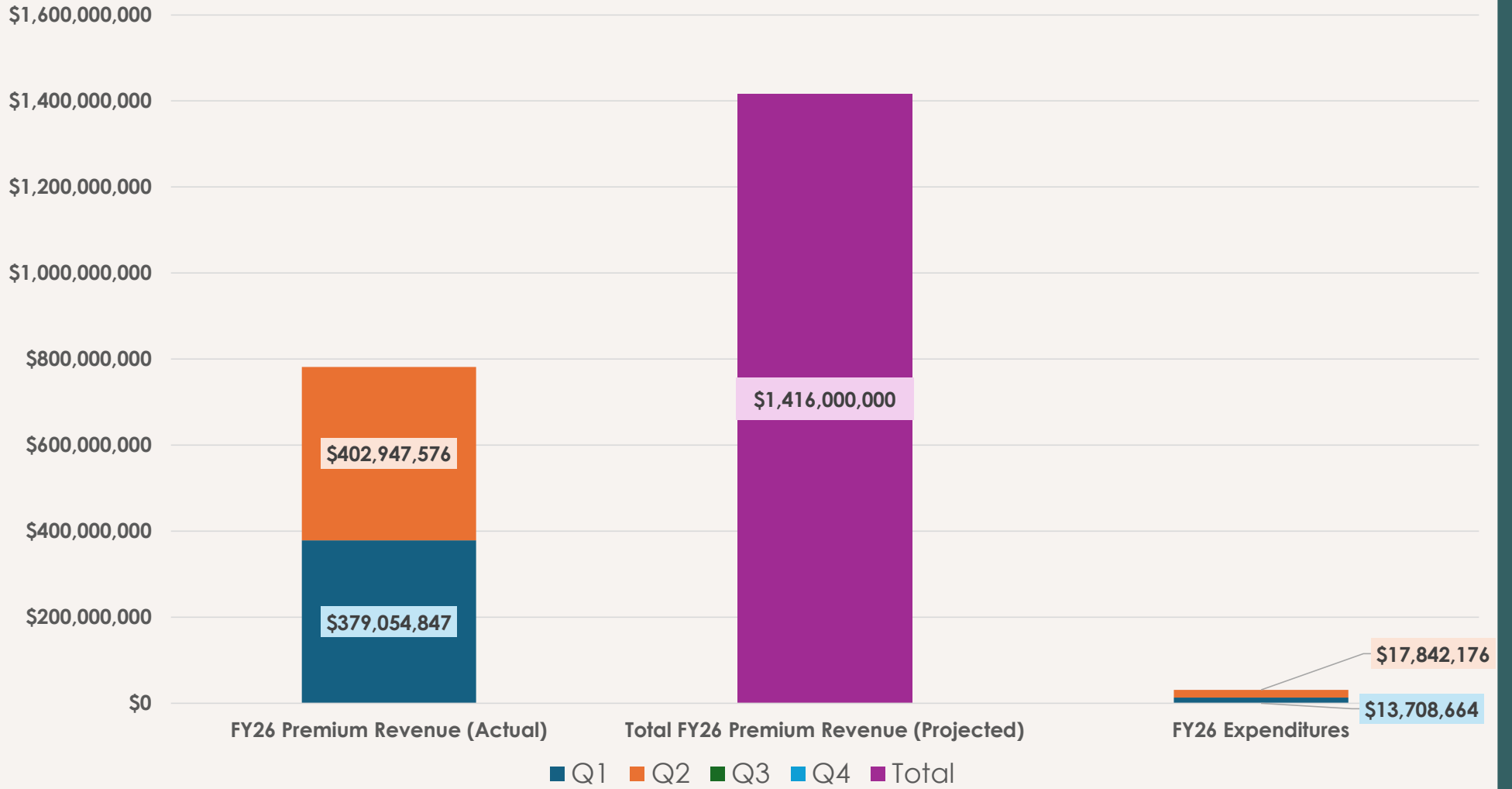
4/29/2026

Office of the State Actuary

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WA Cares Fund Premium Revenue and Expenditures for FY26





Investment Performance Update

David Schumacher, SIB

LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS TRUST ACCOUNT (LTSS) PERFORMANCE REVIEW – 4Q 2025

APRIL 29, 2026

David Schumacher
Government and Public Affairs Director





LTSS INVESTMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY

The WSIB approved the Long-Term Services & Supports Trust Account investment policy at its June 16, 2022, meeting

The customized fixed income investment program is designed to maximize return at a prudent level of risk while abiding by the constitutional limitations

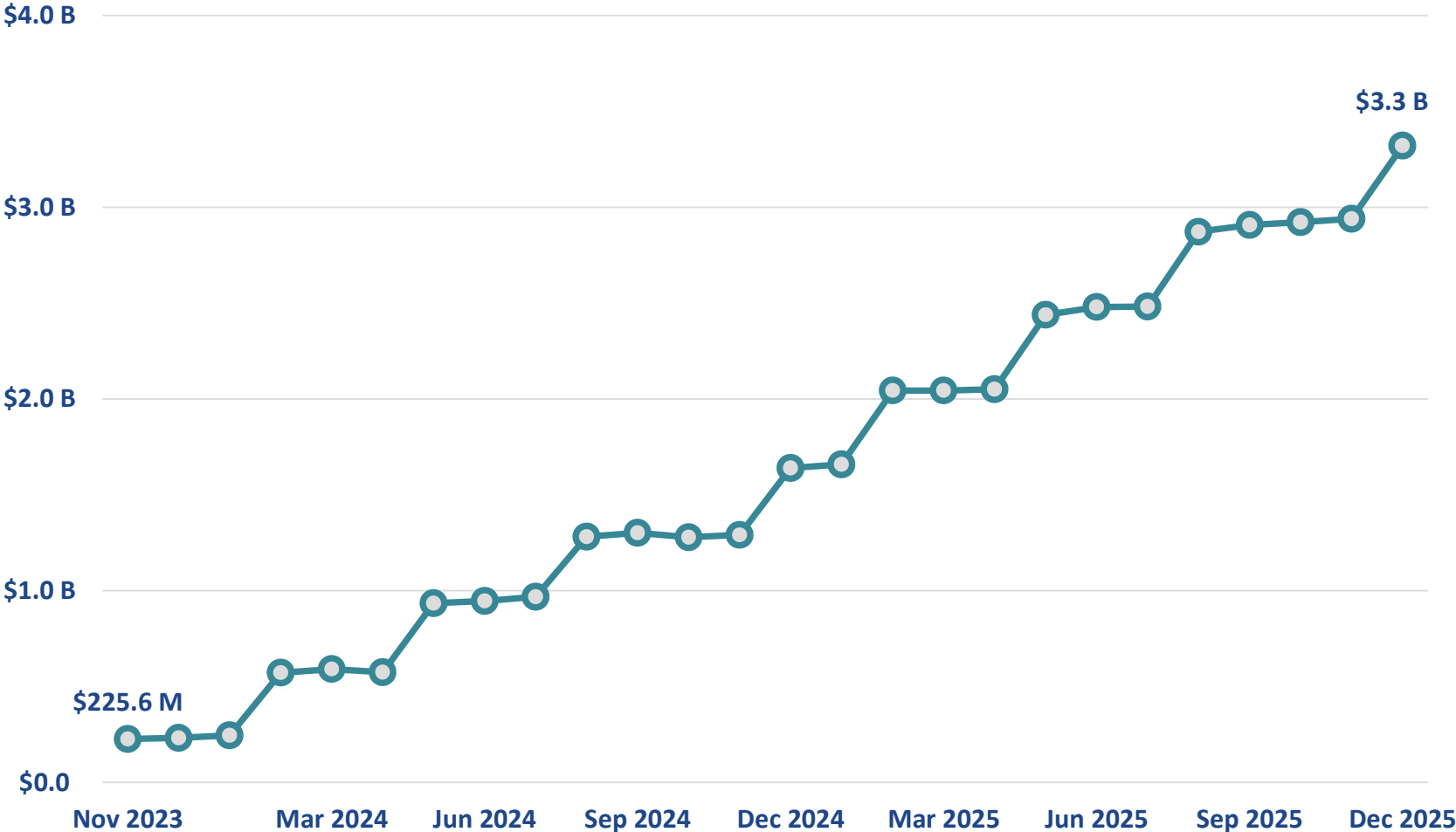
The investment program is be actively managed by the WSIB with the following characteristics

- Invested in interest-producing debt securities with varying maturity, structure, and credit ratings
- Expected to meet or exceed the return of the Bloomberg U.S. Universal Index
- Managed to maintain a portfolio duration within plus or minus 25 percent of the index

The Board-adopted policy can be found at https://www.sib.wa.gov/docs/policies/2_35_600.pdf



HISTORICAL MARKET VALUE GROWTH OF LTSS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025



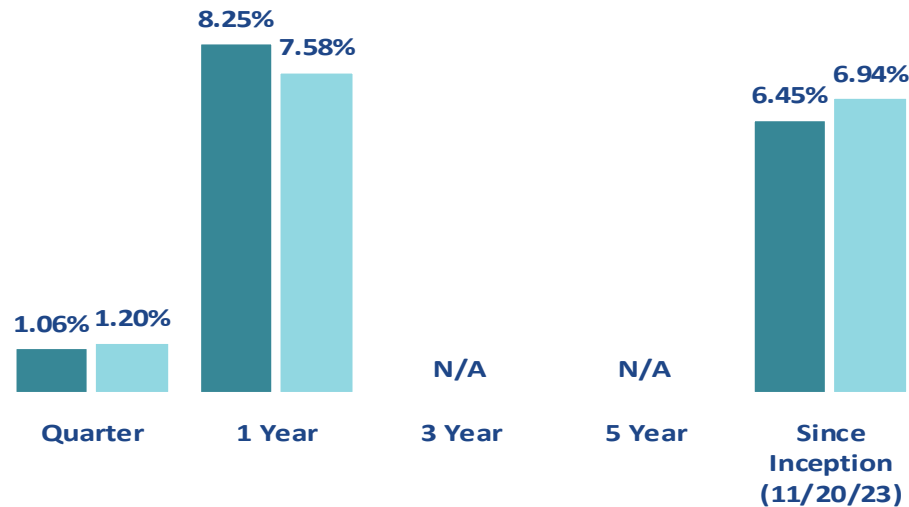
LTSS MARKET VALUE AND PERFORMANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

Market Value

Total	\$3,320,889,154
Fixed Income	\$2,937,669,162
Cash	\$383,219,992

Performance

■ LTSS Total Fund ■ Bloomberg Universal



The first assets arrived in November 2023, and with subsequent contributions fund assets have grown to over \$2.0 billion

To date, new contributions have been large relative to existing fund balances

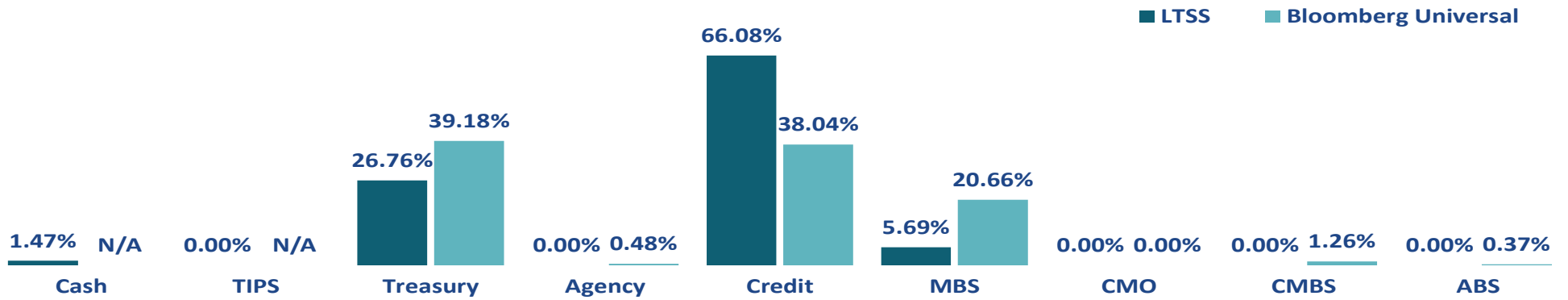
- Due to the pacing of these large new investments, early fund performance can differ from the benchmark

Over time, performance is expected to track the index more closely

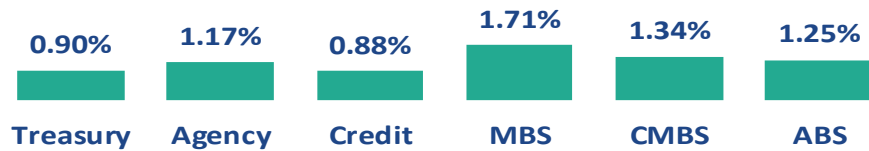
SECTOR WEIGHTS AND RETURNS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

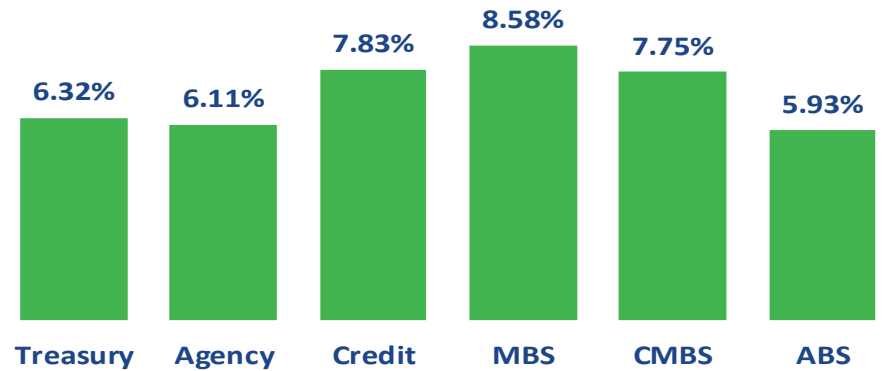
Sector Weighting



Bloomberg Universal Quarter Sector Returns



Bloomberg Universal 1-Year Sector Returns



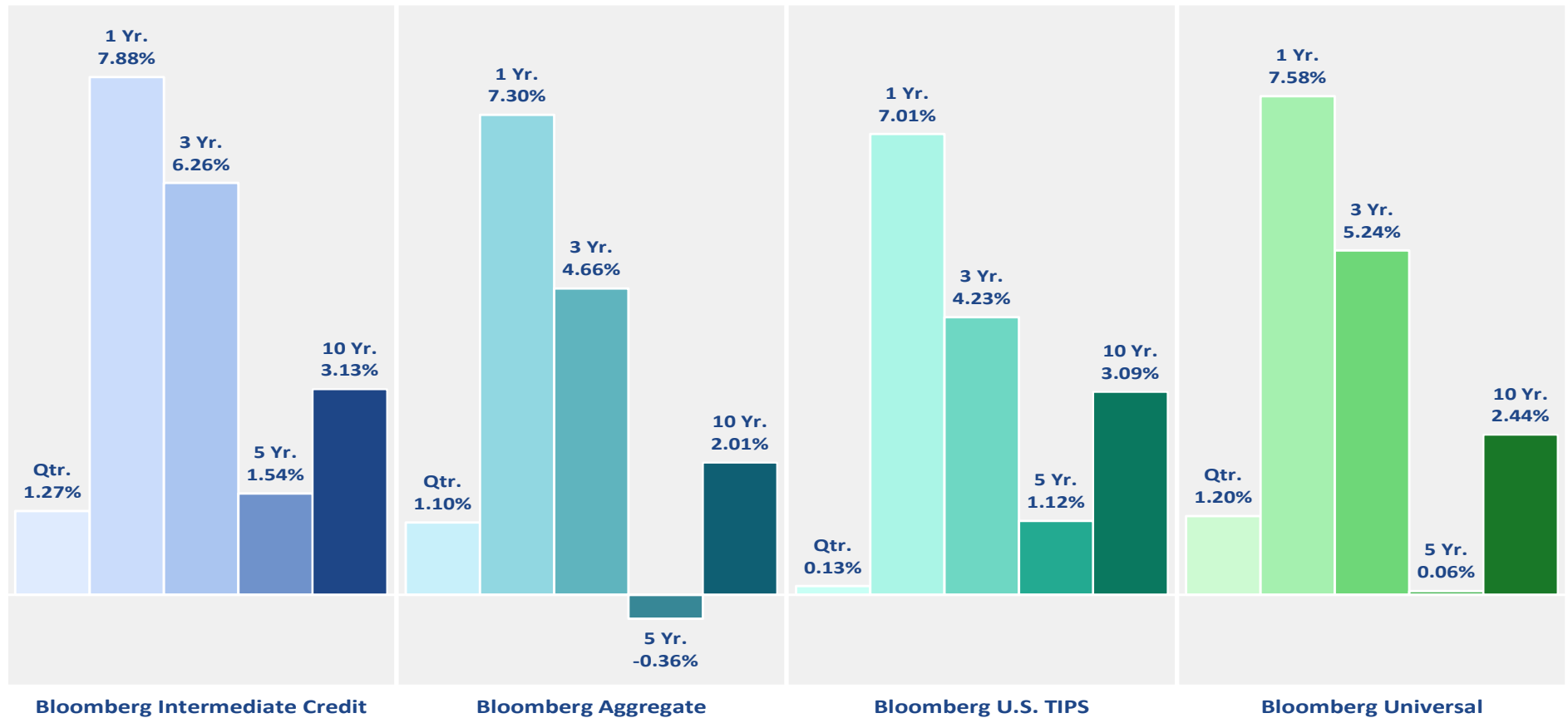
CAPITAL MARKETS SUMMARY

DECEMBER 31, 2025

- Fixed income markets posted exceptionally strong results during the fourth quarter, driven primarily by two interest rate cuts by the U.S. Federal Reserve
- The U.S. labor market showed signs of weakening during the fourth quarter with rising unemployment and sluggish job creation marking a notable deterioration from earlier in the year
 - The unemployment rate rose to 4.6% in November, which was 0.1% higher than expected and up from 4.4% in September
- November U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures released in December showed that underlying U.S. inflation rose at the slowest annual pace since early 2021
- The Federal Open Market Committee (the Fed) held two meetings during the quarter and on both occasions they cut interest rates, reducing the benchmark rate from 4.25% to 3.75%
- U.S. Treasury rates were mixed during the fourth quarter, driven largely by Fed activity
 - The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield rose 0.02% to end 2025 at 4.2%
- The Bloomberg Treasury index was up 0.9%, which brought the 1-year return to 6.3%, while the broader Bloomberg U.S. Universal index returned 1.2% during the quarter and 7.6% for the year

CAPITAL MARKETS AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER 31, 2025

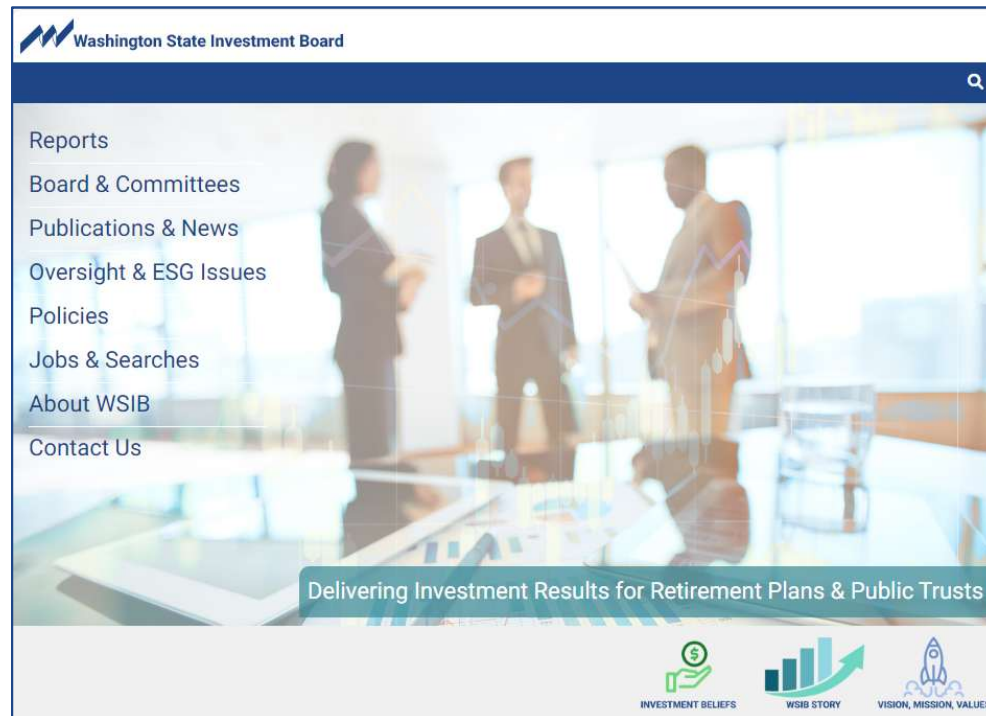


CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: <http://www.sib.wa.gov>

Address: 2100 Evergreen Park Drive SW
P.O. Box 40916
Olympia, WA 98504-0916

Phone: (360) 956-4600



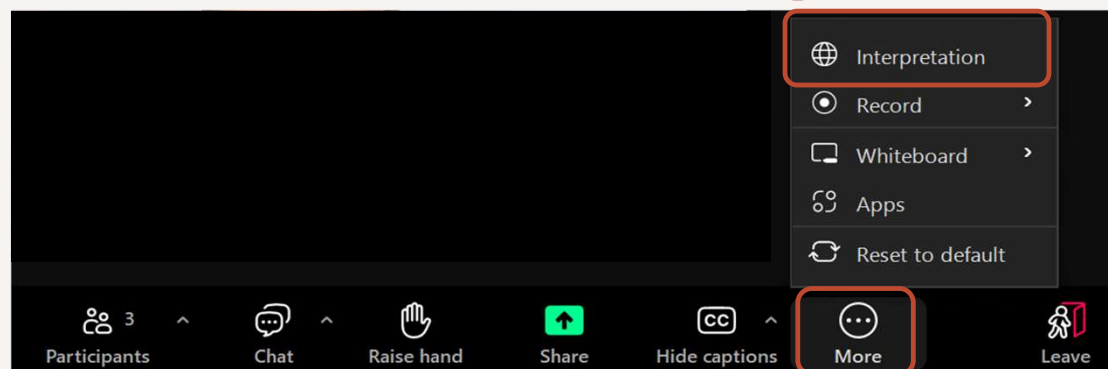


BREAK

Language Interpretation – Zoom Setup

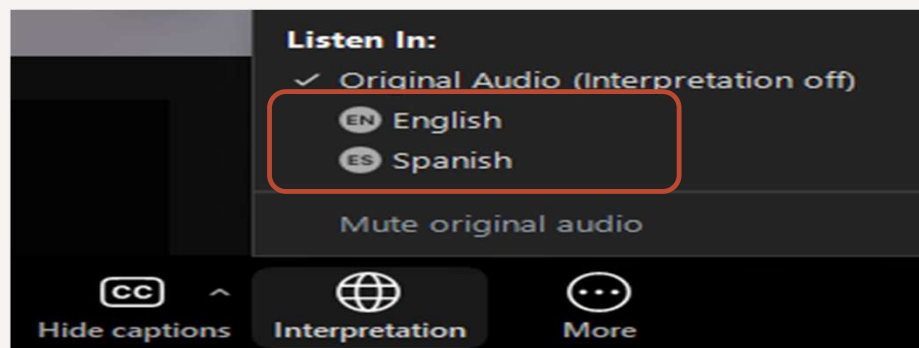
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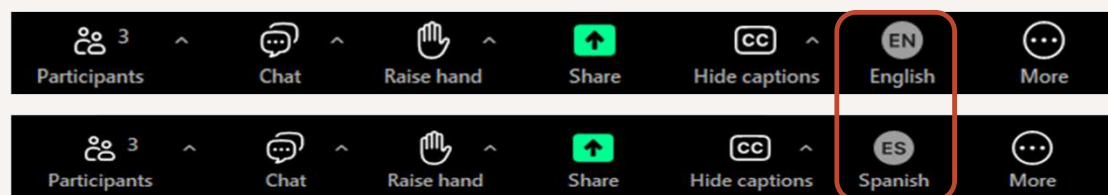
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OSA's Planned Work

Luke Masselink, OSA

Office of the State Actuary – 2026 Work Plan

LTSS Trust Commission

Luke Masselink, Senior Actuary

April 29, 2026



2026 Work Plan

- We continue our path in the “learning phase” through:
 - Benefit claims data collection.
 - Continued plan administration review to ensure alignment with actuarial modeling.
 - Premium data tracking tools and trend analysis.
 - Supporting WSIB on updated investment policy.
- Milliman’s next *Actuarial Valuation Report* will be published in late 2027.
 - Reflect a full year of benefit claims and updated investment policy.
 - Support future discussions on margin.



Thank You

For questions, please contact
[The Office of the State Actuary](#)
360-786-6140
State.Actuary@leg.wa.gov

Luke Masselink

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4/29/2026



Pilot Update

Alena Tourtellotte, DSHS

Ben Veghte, DSHS

Pilot Update

Objectives

- Get staff real-world experience with low volume of users
- Learn from user experience from Washingtonians
- Identify any needed changes to systems or processes
- Leverage learnings to implement quick changes to policy, training, or procedures and plan future improvements

Recruitment Approach

- Leverage our local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in the pilot counties to identify prospective pilot participants
- Conduct local outreach to groups, associations and certain providers
- Identify AAA and DSHS staff willing to support the pilot as volunteers

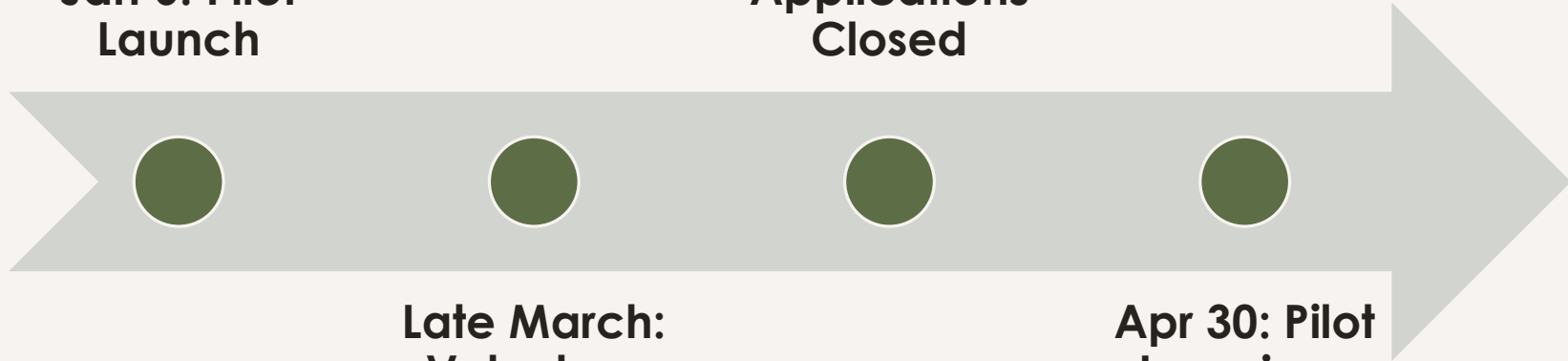
Pilot Timeline

**Jan 6: Pilot
Launch**

**Mar 31: Pilot
Applications
Closed**

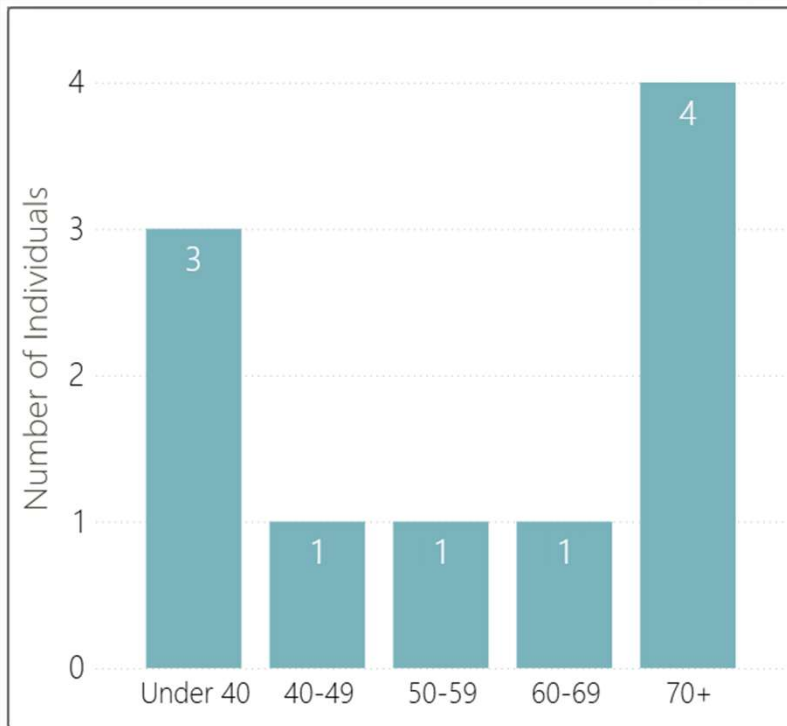
**Late March:
Volunteer
Applications
Began**

**Apr 30: Pilot
Learnings**



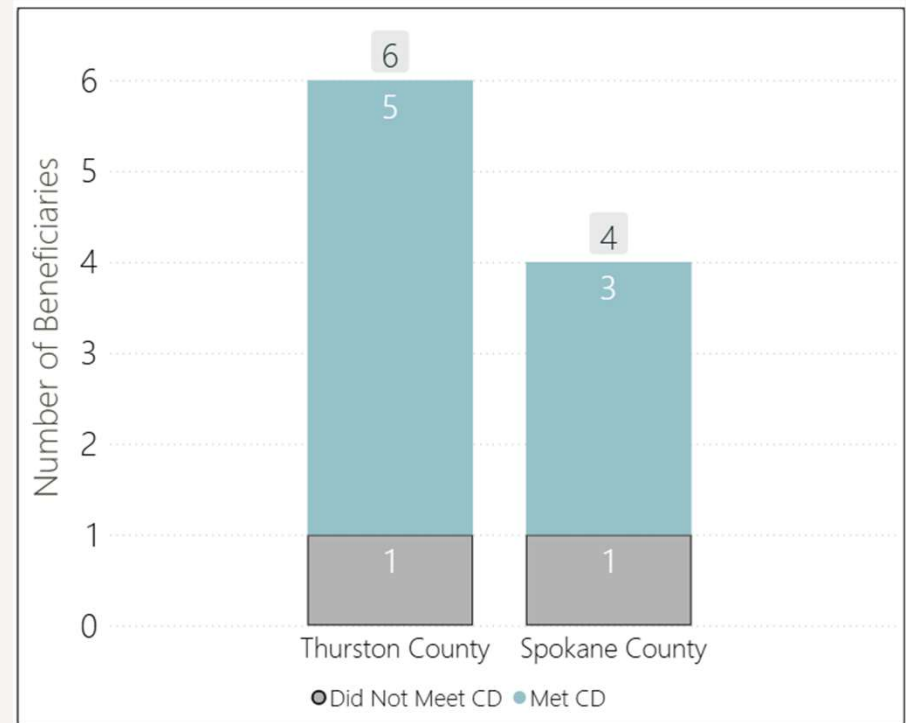
Applicant Demographics

Applicants, by age group



Data as of 4/10

Applicants, by county of residence



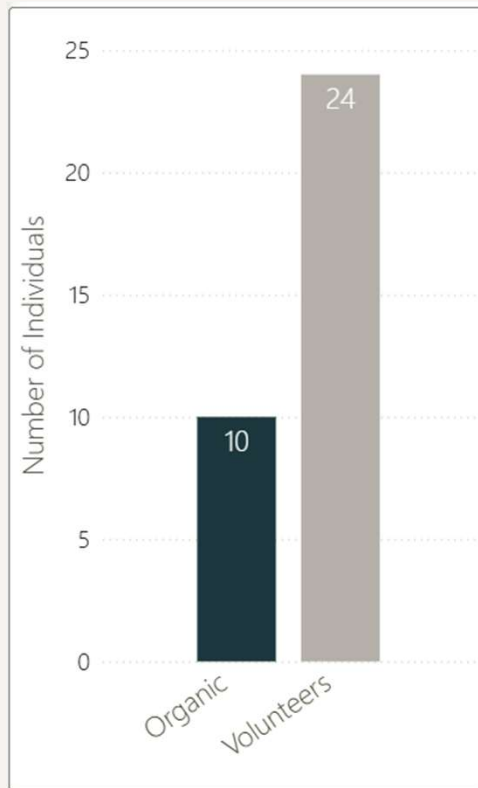
Data as of 4/10

Applicant Demographics (cont.)

- **Race:** 90% White; 10% American Indian/Alaska Native
- **Gender Identity:** 60% female; 40% male
- **Preferred written/spoken language:** 100% English

Eligibility Process

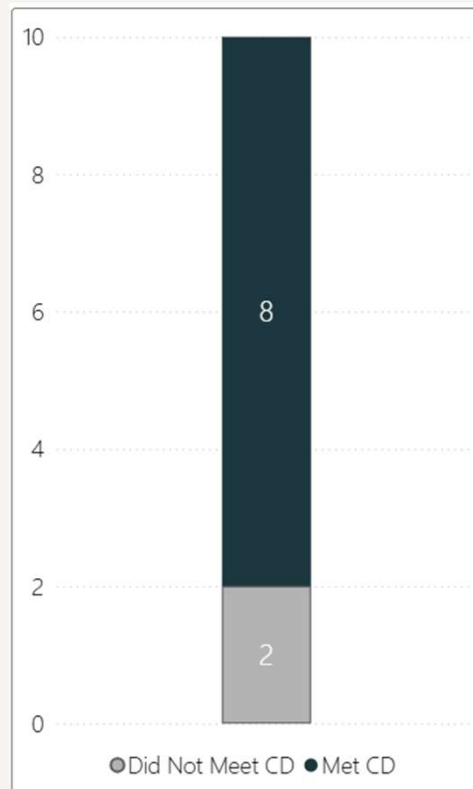
Applications



Data as of 4/10



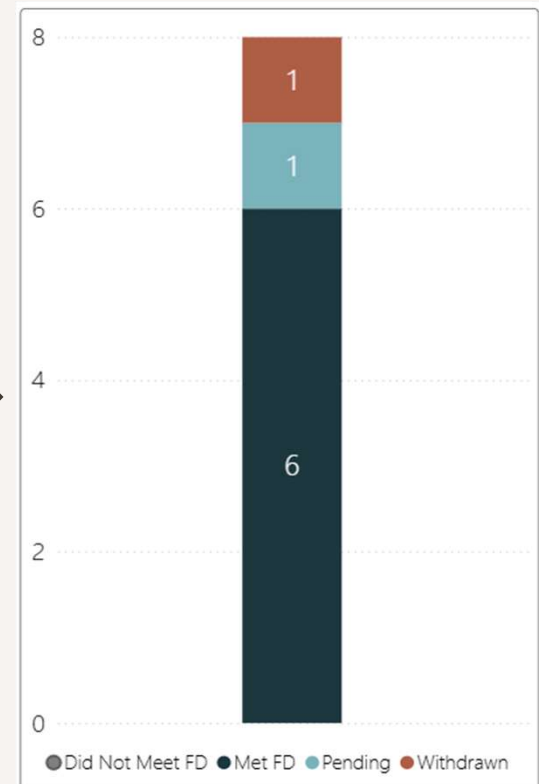
Contribution Determination Results



Data as of 4/10



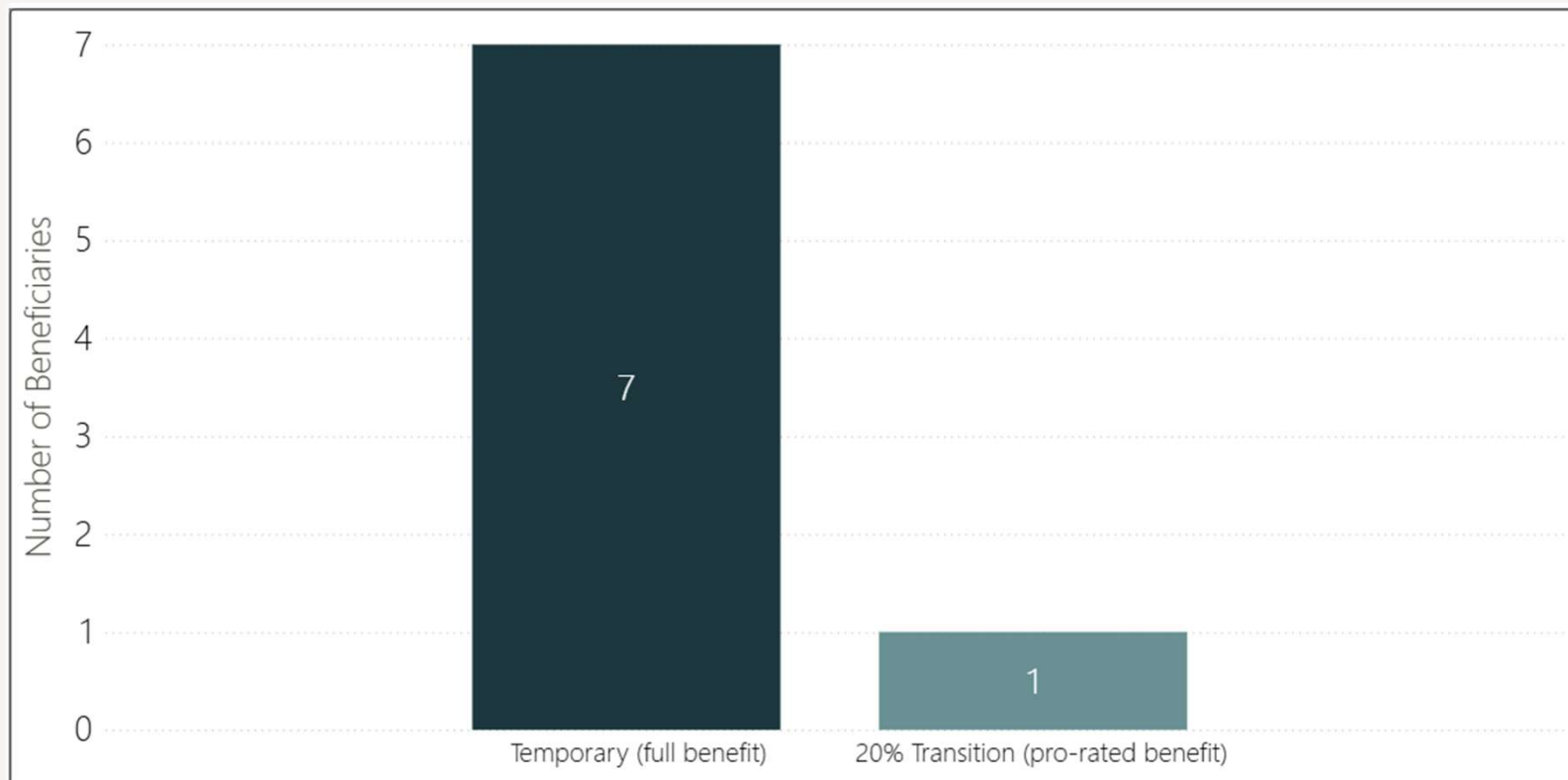
Functional Eligibility Determination Results



Data as of 4/10

Contribution Pathways

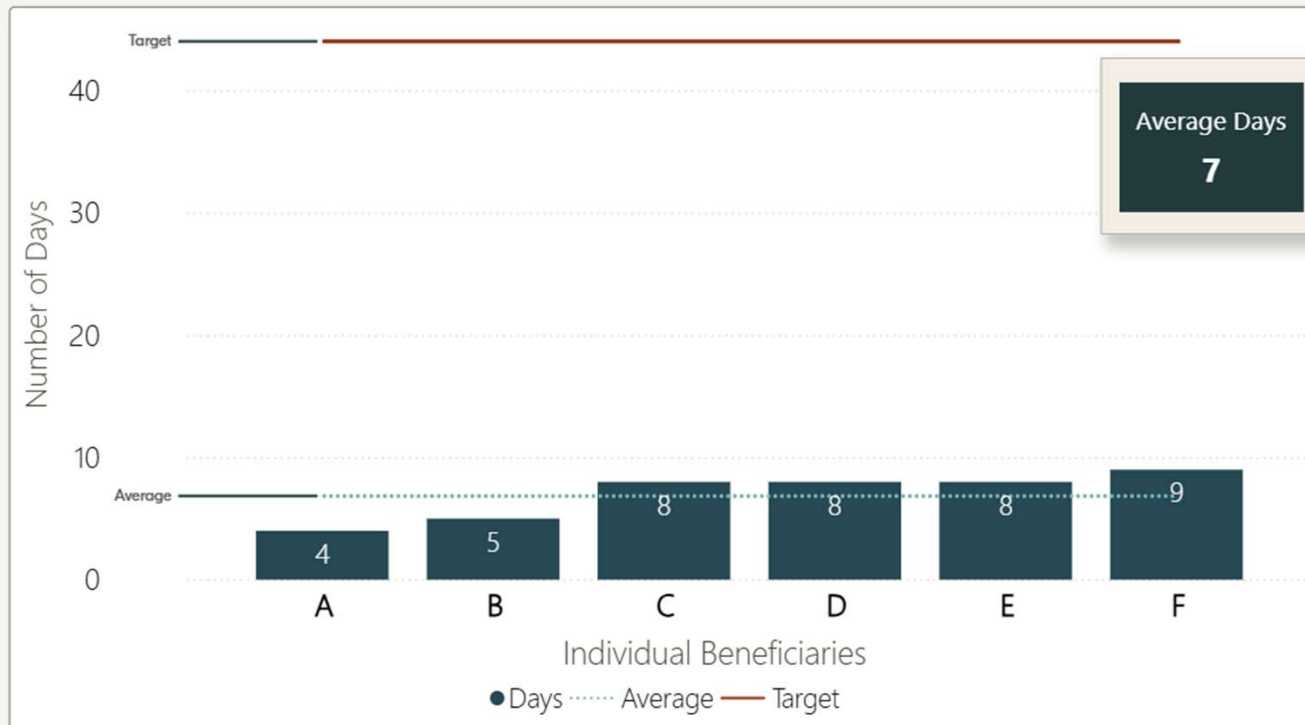
Contribution Determination Results, by pathway



Data as of 4/10

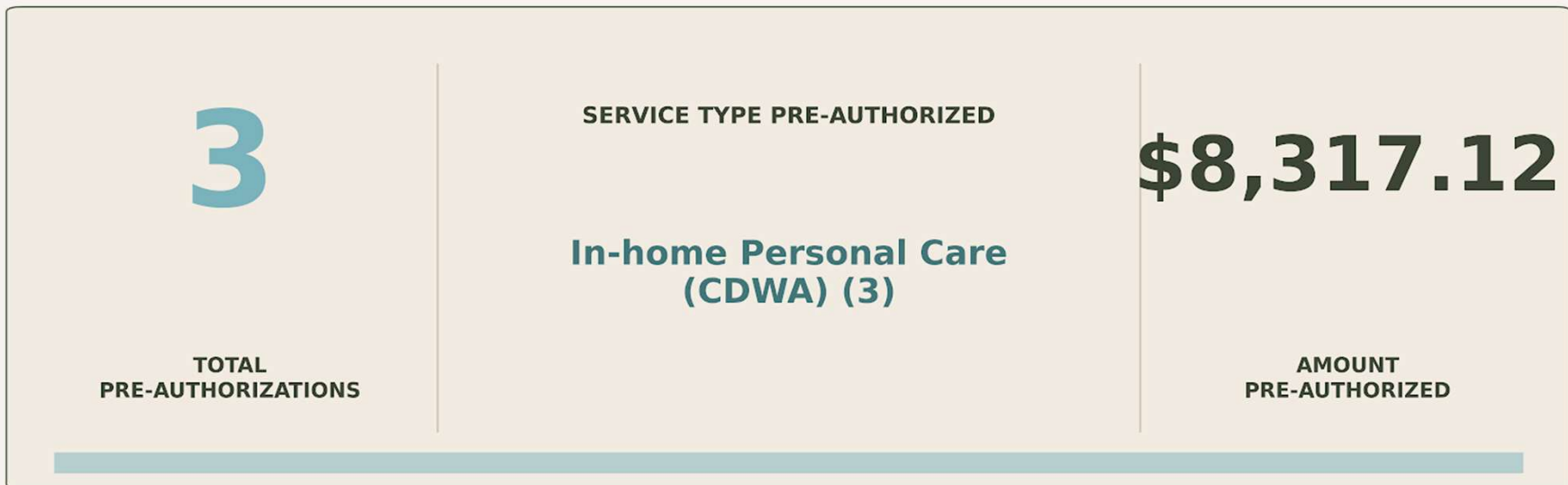
Application Processing Time

Number of days between Contribution Determination and Functional Eligibility Determination



Data as of 4/10

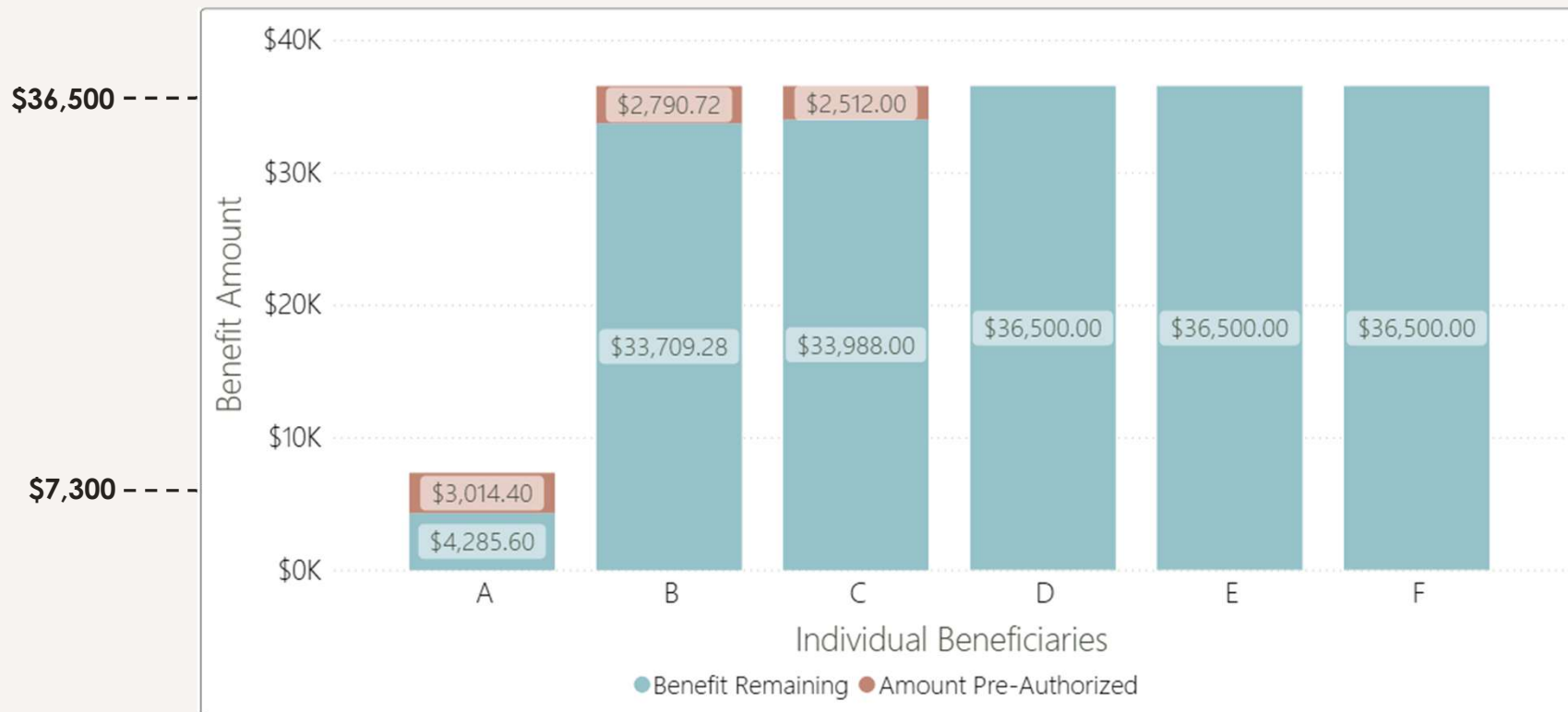
Pre-authorizations



Data as of 4/10

Amount Pre-Authorized vs. Benefit Remaining

Benefit amount pre-authorized and remaining, by individual beneficiary



Data as of 4/10

Lessons Learned from the Pilot

Summary

Systems and Processes

Exercised systems and processes and quickly remedied issues found, with minimal impact to users

Data and Reporting

Tested out data reporting processes to better understand nuances in source data systems

Staff/AAA Feedback

Engaged staff across the division to understand how they are experiencing the program

Systems and Processes

Exercised systems

Exercised systems to identify issues and quickly remediate

Verified staffing levels

Verified staffing levels by assessing customer tech literacy and human support needed

Fine-tuned internal roles

Fine-tuned internal roles and responsibilities to reduce overlap

Evaluated trainings

Evaluated what continual training may be needed

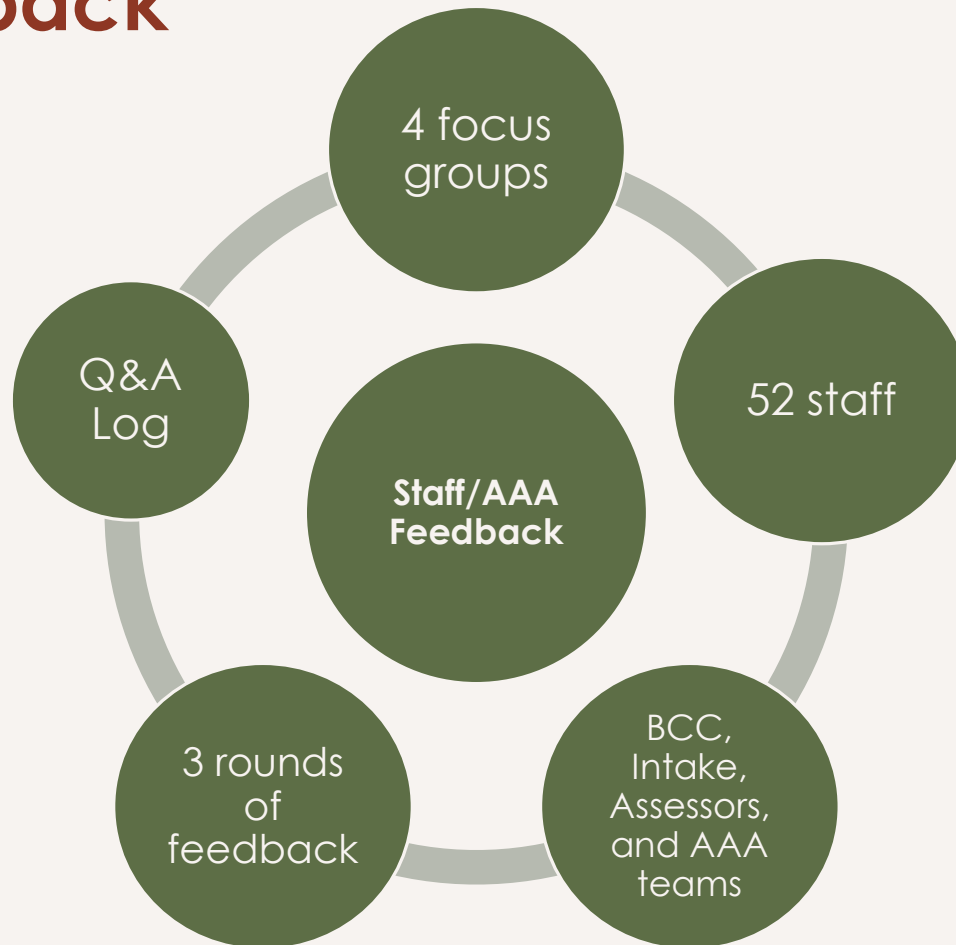
Identified alignment needs

Identified a need to ensure there is early cross-agency alignment on process changes

Data and Reporting

- Pilot allowed data team to:
 - Refine consolidated database
 - Understand nuances in the data through real-time data workflows
 - Make necessary reporting adjustments

Pilot Feedback





Review Commission Workgroups for 2026

Ben Veghte, DSHS

Commission Workgroups for 2026

- Program Integrity Review
- Late career workers moving to Washington



Commission Reporting After Program Launch

Ben Veghte, DSHS

Commission Reporting After Program Launch

- At the June meeting we will report on:
 - Number of applications received
 - Contribution Determination Results
 - Functional Eligibility Determination Results
 - Timeliness of Processes
 - Pre-authorization amounts and service types
 - Provider Network Adequacy
- At the September meeting and going forward, we will be able to report on claims data as well.


Public Comment

Submit written comments or questions to: wacaresfund@dshs.wa.gov

For more information about the program, visit wacaresfund.wa.gov

Sign up for Public Comment

- Submit written comments or questions to:
wacaresfund@dshs.wa.gov
- For more information about the program, visit wacaresfund.wa.gov

 **Raise Hand**

Attendees: Click on the *Raise Hand* icon to sign up for public comment

***9**

Phone callers: Press *9 to raise your electronic hand

Then, when recognized, press *6 to unmute yourself

Review Agenda for June 24, 2026 Meeting

- Approve 04/29/2026 LTSS Trust Commission meeting minutes
- Receive Program Update
- Receive Rulemaking Update
- Receive Update on Program Launch

Wrap Up

- Action items review
- Adjourn



Thank you!