6.2.6 Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA) referral and assessment process

When a pregnant woman applies for Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA) and isn't eligible for a 60-month TANF Time Limit Extension, the Case Manager (WFSSS) accepts the referral and assesses the PWA recipients' needs. All financial eligibility has been determined before the Case Manger (WFSSS) completes the [First Steps Assessment](https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/chapter-5-pathways-employment/51-pregnancy-employment) (see WFHB 5.1.18 What is First Steps?).

During the First Steps Assessment, the Case Manager (WFSSS):

* Screens the recipient for Equal Access needs.
* Screens the recipient for Protective Payee service needs.
* Reviews the TANF Time Limit Extension hardship categories with the recipient to determine if the recipient meets any hardship criteria.
* Screens for substance use treatment needs:
  + If the recipient is in need of a substance use assessment, makes the appropriate referrals.

Once verification returns, if the recommendation is for substance use treatment, ongoing case management is required by the Case Manager (WFSSS.)

* + Case Manager() if the recommendation is for substance use treatment

If substance use has been ruled out and the substance use professional is not recommending treatment activities, case management is not required by the Case Manager (WFSSS).

See the PWA flow chart and CSD procedure for PWA for additional information.