

PCAP Extended Services

Q: Can a participant stay in the program longer than three years?

A: Extensions can be granted at the supervisor's discretion though should be done so with careful consideration. If an extension is granted, evaluate the need for continued services after three months, and complete Extended Biannuals every six months. If a program provides services beyond 54 months, the participant is no longer considered PCAP.

An extension should be used sparingly to prevent drift from PCAP model service delivery. An important part of the model is that participants and mentors communicate early and often about graduation. Keeping graduation in mind ensures that each session includes necessary conversations for building relationships, skills, and networks are the focus. As participants enter the final year of PCAP, programs will want to consider what referrals and introductions need to be in place for a smooth transition.

The Alberta PCAP Council acknowledges that there are times when a participant may require extended services (beyond 36 month). If enrollment is being extended, a clear, purposeful reason must be identified as to why an extension is being granted beyond the three years. Each case needs to be evaluated individually by the supervisor. Extenuating circumstances may include and are not limited to program/mentor deficiencies, Children Services interventions, risk, or housing crisis. The supervisor and mentor may start with a three-month extension plan and re-evaluate at the end of the extension. To avoid participants creating crises to stay in the program, consider creating a PCAP alumni support or graduates' women's group so they can maintain connection and a sense of support.

Some communities have limited resources to connect and support participants during or after they have completed their three years in the program. These challenges have resulted in slower progress and longer lengths of stay in the program. Mentors in these situations may need more time to find resources and opportunities to build relationships that will support participants after PCAP.

If the supervisor approves a service extension, a Biannual for Extended Services must be completed every 6 months after the 36-month biannual up to 54-months. Following 54 months, if programs continue to provide services to a participant, they will not be considered PCAP.

Considerations before extending a participant:

- Are the participant's continuing needs aligned with the PCAP goals and objectives? Are there other programs better suited to the participant's goals (ex. FASD supports)?
- Can support be provided in other ways that do not require additional dedicated time for a mentor?
 - Ex. Some programs create a case note/transition plan for their graduating participants with high probability of future contact that outlines potential resources or supports a participant may need in the future. Staff are prepared for when the participant may call back/seek services.
- If the participant moves to another area, the PCAP program in the area may not have the capacity to take on an extended participant. Even if space is not an issue, their funding and/or referral criteria may not allow them to accept the extended participant.