



Vashon Care Network Mission Statement
Vashon Care Network provides support to Islanders through coordination and distribution of physical resources and networking with community services and individuals.

Vashon Care Network Home Care Aide (HCA) Scholarship

Background: Home Care Aide (HCA) Certification

The Vashon Care Network (VCN), in partnership with the Senior Center, is offering six full scholarships to Islanders to cover the cost of training to become a Home Care Aide (HCA) certified by the State of Washington. The Senior Center received an award from the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) to fund three scholarships and three scholarships are being funded by the Vashon Care Network.

A certified Home Care Aide can work as a caregiver, at a nursing or assisted living facility, at an adult family home or as an Independent Provider (IP) in the homes of families who have been approved for state aid under the Washington COPES program¹ or the New Freedom program.²

Not only does the training provide a strong educational and skills foundation for caregivers, but the certification is essential in meeting the care needs of low-income families who qualify for state-funded caregiving assistance. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), which pays for in-home care for individuals who qualify, requires that certification. Here on Vashon, there is a shortage of qualified HCAs. This means that even if a low-income family qualifies for COPES aid for a loved one at home, they may have a hard time finding a qualified caregiver.

Scholarship Description

The full scholarship will cover:

- Tuition for basic 75-hour training for the Home Care Aide. The training, covering both classroom and practical skills, will be provided by Cornerstone Healthcare Training, (<https://www.cornerstonehealthcaretraining.com/hca-licensing>). The training is entirely on-line and is a self-paced curriculum.
 - Testing fees, the state certification fee, and transportation to testing sites currently open and located in the greater Seattle area. The per-person cost for the training is \$964. That figure includes \$664 for the course, \$150 for DSHS home care aide certification exam fee, \$100 Department of Health Application Fee and \$50 to cover transportation.
 - The scholarship recipient will have a mentor, an experienced Island HCA, who can help guide them through the training process.
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Candidate Qualifications

- Key caregiver qualities: dependability, professionalism, compassion, patience, humor, good social skills, honesty, physical strength and endurance.
- Caregiving can be stressful and demanding with many challenges. This training will provide caregivers with the knowledge and skill to be an excellent caregiver.
- Commitment to use HCA training to provide care to individuals and families on Vashon Island.
- Scholarship recipients will be required to commit to serving COPES clients for 3-5 hours per week for the first year after completing their training and becoming certified and licensed to do so.

Application Process

- Interested applicants can complete a written application form available on the Vashon Care Network website (<https://www.vashoncarenetwork.org/copy-of-about-1>). Applications can be submitted online or a hard copy can be sent to: PO Box 13135 Vashon 98013 ATTN.: Tory Hayes. Completed applications are due by October 25, 2024.
- Final candidates will be interviewed by the panel with selection complete by November 22, 2024. All applicants will be notified by November 25, 2024.
- The scholarship covers tuition for the 75-hour Home Care Aide training course offered on-line by Cornerstone Healthcare Training, as well as state testing and license fees. Recipients will begin the course the week of December 9, 2024, to be completed by March 14, 2025.

Questions/Further Information

If you have questions or would like additional information, contact Tory Hayes, victoriansmith@comcast.net.

¹ COPES is a state program that provides comprehensive care management and helps pay for personal care, home health care, transportation and other services for older adults in their home.

² New Freedom (NF) is a voluntary Medicaid funded program that allows eligible participants to receive services in their home and community while managing their own service plan and budget. NF offers elders and adults with disabilities the option to manage a budget and decide for themselves what mix of services/goods will best meet their care needs.