



**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.

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## **Vashon Care Network Home Care Aide (HCA) Scholarship**

The Vashon Care Network (VCN), 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.

### **Background: Home Care Aide (HCA) Certification**

HCA training provide a strong educational and skills foundation for caregivers working independently in the homes of island elders and others who might be unable to remain in their homes without this aid.

The HCA 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.

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 program<sup>1</sup> or the New Freedom program.<sup>2</sup>

### **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, HCA Learning Plan 1 (<https://www.cornerstonehealthcaretraining.com/hca-licensing>).
- VCN will provide support for trainees registering and completing the course including skills training sessions, and help navigating the licensure process.
- Testing fees, the state certification fee, and transportation to testing sites located in the greater Seattle area. The per-person cost for the training is approximately \$1,025. That figure includes approximately \$725 for the course, \$150 for DSHS Home Care Aide certification exam fee, \$100 Department of Health Application Fee and \$50 to cover transportation.

In accepting this HCA scholarship, the recipient agrees to the following:

- Complete the 75-hour Cornerstone Healthcare training course by August 14, 2026.
  - Apply for Washington state home care certification by September 1, 2026.
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- Take the state-mandated test to receive certification as soon as feasible following completion of training. Ideally by September 14, 2026.
- Become an Independent Provider who can provide care to COPES - certified individuals on Vashon as soon as feasible following completion of training. Ideally by October 1, 2026.
- If the individual is unable to complete the training, licensure, and registration as a COPES qualified Independent Practitioner it is their responsibility to reimburse the Vashon Care Network in full for scholarship tuition and related fees.

## Candidate Qualifications

- Key caregiver qualities: dependability, compassion, patience, humor, good social skills, honesty, physical strength and endurance.
- Caregiving can be stressful and demanding with many challenges. The best caregivers combine professionalism with a passion for caring for people.
- Commitment to use HCA training to provide care to individuals and families on Vashon Island.

## Application Process

- Interested applicants can complete a written application form found on the Vashon Care Network website [Scholarship page](#).
- Applications can be submitted online or a hard copy can be sent to: PO Box 13135 Vashon, WA 98013 ATTN.: Tory Hayes
- Completed **applications are due by April 3, 2026.**
- All applications will be reviewed by a panel of VCN volunteers and caregivers.
- Final candidates will be interviewed by the panel with selection complete by **April 30, 2026.** All applicants will be notified by **May 4, 2026.**
- 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 **May 11, 2026**, to be completed by **August 14, 2026.**

## Questions/Further Information

If you have questions or would like additional information, contact Tory Hayes, [victoriansmith@comcast.net](mailto:victoriansmith@comcast.net) or Kate O'Hare, [keohare@gmail.com](mailto:keohare@gmail.com).

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.