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## **FACT SHEET for: Vashon Care Network Home Care Aide (HCA) Scholarship Application**

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

The Vashon Care Network (VCN), in partnership with the Senior Center, is offering seven 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 the scholarships.

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>

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. Private care is often prohibitively expensive.

The HCA training can be a springboard to a career in healthcare -- a short further training leads to certification as a CNA (certified nursing assistant), and provides the basis for further training in the nursing profession and other healthcare fields.

### **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>). At this time during the pandemic, 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 \$936. That figure includes \$664 for the course, \$137 for DSHS home care aide certification exam fee, \$85 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 process and mentor them in a home setting once they complete training and are matched with a patient in the COPES system.
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## 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 have a passion for patient care.
- 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 available on the Vashon Care Network website (<https://www.vashoncarenetwork.org/copy-of-resources>). Applications can be submitted online or a hard copy can be sent to: PO Box 13135 Vashon 98013 ATTN.: Sissel Johannessen. Completed applications are due by March 1, 2022.  
**NOTE:** We cannot consider applicants who have not had COVID vaccinations. Proof of vaccination is requested.
- All applications will be reviewed by a panel of experienced caregivers.
- Final candidates will be interviewed by the panel with selection complete by March 22, 2022.
- 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 in early April, to be completed by the end of June.

## Questions/Further Information

If you have questions or would like additional information, contact Sissel Johannessen, [sissel@centurytel.net](mailto:sissel@centurytel.net) or Chris Jovanovich, [crisjov@hotmail.com](mailto:crisjov@hotmail.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.