



Workforce spotlight

Transportation Pilot for Washington Caregivers

Caregiving jobs are in high demand across Washington. Many people need support to live at home, and more caregivers are needed every year. To help the current workforce, the DSHS Workforce Development Team, working with Consumer Direct Care Network Washington, started a new Transportation Pilot Program.



Caregivers shared that getting to and from client homes can be difficult. Transportation is a real barrier. Together, DSHS Workforce Development Team and CDWA created this pilot to help caregivers with reliable rides to reach the people they support and provide steady, consistent care.

The pilot uses Lyft to take individual providers directly to client homes. With this support, the program hopes to help clients use more of their authorized care hours, expand client satisfaction with consistency of care, lower transportation costs for caregivers, and reduce stress. The pilot will also look at things like hours worked, service reliability, caregiver retention, and overall wellbeing.



The program is currently active in Auburn, Everett, Federal Way, Kent, Lacey, Olympia, Renton, Spokane, Tumwater, and Vancouver. Eligible individual providers can apply through their employer, Consumer Direct Care Network Washington, [using the online registration form](#).

This pilot was made possible through Money Follows the Person grant funds designed to support people transitioning from institutional settings and to expand availability, quality, and flexibility of home and community-based services, helping people live independently in their own homes.

The DSHS Workforce Development Team thanks Consumer Direct Care Network Washington for working together to make this pilot possible.





Honoring National Caregiver Day

Every February 20, we pause to honor the people who make independent living possible for millions of Americans: caregivers. Across the country, more than 70 million paid and unpaid caregivers support older adults, people with disabilities, and loved ones who need daily help. They are the quiet backbone of our communities, often unseen but always essential.

Caregivers walk among us at the grocery store, in waiting rooms, on the bus, and in our neighborhoods. Many are balancing jobs, families, and their own health while carrying the mental load of another person's personal care needs — medications, appointments, meals, safety, comfort, and companionship. Their work is deeply human, often exhausting, and always rooted in compassion.

Paid caregivers show up day after day to provide personal care, dignity, and connection. Unpaid family caregivers rearrange their lives to support someone they love. And now, a new generation is stepping forward: high school students across Washington who are beginning their training to become Home Care Aides. These students bring energy, curiosity, and a sense of purpose, and many will grow into the next wave of skilled, dedicated professionals our communities rely on.

Today, we celebrate every caregiver — seasoned workers, family members, and young people just starting out. Your care makes independence possible. Your work matters. And we see you.



Strengthening the Caregiving Workforce

Workforce Navigators help people find their path, understand their options, and take the next step toward a caregiving career. Take a look at the numbers below from 2025 to see the impact they are making.



2227

Total Interactions



1316

Provided Assistance



230

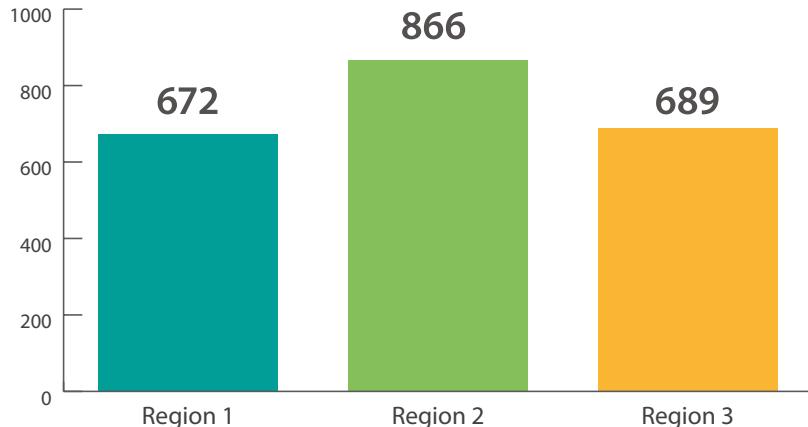
Caregivers Hired



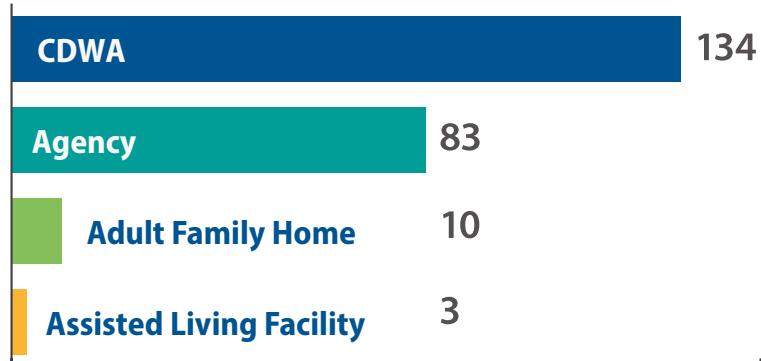
324

In Progress

Contacts by Region



Employer



Workforce Navigators

Have questions about becoming a caregiver?

Get free support anywhere on your caregiver journey.



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Let's Connect

Looking to bring the [Home Care Aide Program](#) to your high school? Reach out for more information.



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Real-World Experience

Did You Know?

Students in the High School HCA program complete real skills training that prepares them for both paid caregiving roles and future healthcare education.



Washington's High School Home Care Aide Training Program Draws National and Global Interest

In December, Washington's High School Home Care Aide Training Program was part of *Addressing Workforce Shortages in Long-Term Care: U.S., Germany, and Global Perspectives*, a symposium hosted by George Mason University, the University of Bremen, and the German Embassy. The event brought together researchers, policymakers, and workforce leaders to explore innovative solutions to the growing long-term care workforce crisis.

Carly Seagren, High School Liaison for the Home and Community Living Administration's Workforce Development Team, was invited to present during the "Training and Retaining Health Workforce" roundtable. Her presentation highlighted Washington's statewide effort to bring Home Care Aide training into high schools. An approach that is gaining national attention for its innovation to introduce young people to caregiving careers, support local communities, and help address workforce shortages.



Participants from across the U.S. and Germany expressed strong interest in Washington's model, noting its potential to strengthen the direct care workforce while giving students meaningful, flexible career pathways. The symposium underscored what we see every day: Washington is leading the way with creative, community-centered strategies that support both students and the long-term care system.

Please email caregivercareerswa@dshs.wa.gov for questions or comments.

