



The WA Cares Fund and family caregivers

On July 1, 2026, WA Cares Fund benefits became available to beneficiaries. WA Cares beneficiaries can use their benefits to help pay for a variety of [covered services and supports](#), including in-home personal care.

Many people are caregivers without even realizing it. If you support a family member with activities of daily living such as bathing, eating, managing medications and more, then you are caregiving.

There are two types of registered WA Cares providers for in-home personal care: Consumer Direct Care Network Washington and licensed home care agencies. Beneficiaries can choose a professional caregiver, or they can have a friend or family member, including a spouse or domestic partner, apply to become their paid caregiver.

You will need to be employed by a local home care agency or Consumer Direct Care Network Washington to become a paid caregiver under WA Cares. There are important differences between the two employer options to consider. See the [caregiving comparison](#) chart to better understand the options.

To learn more about becoming a paid caregiver or find other caregiver resources, visit [the WA Cares website](#) or see the [in-home personal care service snapshot](#).

“Caring for myself is not self-indulgence.
It is self-preservation.”

– Audre Lorde



If you have a tip to share, email it to [caregiver careers](#).

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If you are taking care of family, make sure to get the medical power of attorney. It's usually a downloadable form from your state's department of health.

– Libby

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Working with a therapist who is familiar with being a caregiver can be helpful, but finding one can be difficult, so online and in person support groups can be the next best option.

– Tom

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Don't take bad things they say personally. So long as you're doing what you can, and they're safe, fed, and cared for, sometimes that's all you can do.

– Anonymous



Have a great strategy or personal experience to share?

Send us your tips and stories to be featured in *Caregivers in Action!*

Email: [Caregiver Careers](#)

Nursing Assistant Oversight Is Moving July 1, 2026

Beginning July 1, 2026, the Washington State Board of Nursing will take over the job of regulating nursing assistants. This change comes from a new state law and is meant to bring all nursing oversight into one place.

For caregivers, this shift is mostly behind the scenes. Your credential remains valid. You will still use the Department of Health online system to apply, renew, or check your credential. What is changing is who handles questions and who manages discipline. Those responsibilities will move to the Board of Nursing.

The Board is adding new seats for nursing assistants, so the profession has a stronger voice in decisions that affect training, licensing, and daily work. The goal is to support the people who provide hands-on care across Washington.

Read the full announcement on the [Board of Nursing website](#).



International Self Care Day is July 24

International Self Care Day is a reminder to pause and check in with yourself. Caregivers spend so much time looking after others that it can be easy to forget your own needs. This day is a chance to notice how you feel and give yourself something that supports your health.

Self-care is not only about treats. It is about small choices that help your body and mind stay steady. A quiet moment. A short walk. A healthy meal. A good night of sleep. These simple actions can make a real difference.

On July 24, choose one thing that supports your wellbeing and make time for it. Even a small step counts. **You deserve care too.**

