

# A LONG-TERM CARE FUND FOR EVERYONE.



# 7 in 10 Will Need Long-Term Care. Are You Prepared?

Most of us will need long-term care but don't have a way to pay for it. WA Cares Fund is a new state program that makes long-term care insurance affordable for all Washingtonians for the first time.

With WA Cares Fund, you can receive long-term care services and supports worth up to \$36,500 (adjusted annually for inflation) over your lifetime.

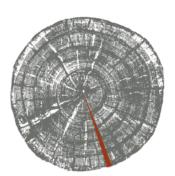
WA Cares Fund is a benefit you earn like Social Security that covers care in your home or a facility, as well as home modifications, meal delivery, car rides, and caregiver training. WA Cares Fund helps ensure that all of us can afford long-term care when we need it.

## **WA Cares Fund Contributions**

WA Cares Fund is self-funded entirely by worker contributions. Unlike private long-term care insurance, which requires premiums even after you retire, you only contribute to WA Cares Fund while you work. Contributions stop the moment you stop working.

# **Earning Your Benefits**

You earn lifetime access to benefits by contributing at least 10 years without a break of 5+ years. You can also access benefits if you contributed 3 of the past 6 years at the time you apply. People born before 1968 can earn lifetime access to 10% of the full benefit amount for each year they contribute.



**Median WA Earnings** \$52,075/year

**Median Contribution** \$302/vear

## Why Contribute?

## **WA Cares Preserves Your Savings**

Use your WA Cares benefits – not your 401k or life savings – to cover your long-term care needs.

#### **WA Cares Lets You Choose**

With WA Cares, a loved one can become your paid caregiver or you can hire a home care aide. You may also pay for home improvements, meal delivery, and much more.

#### **WA Cares Protects Your Family**

When you need care, you will have access to a professional home care aide, so your spouse or adult child won't have to quit their job to care for you.

# **2022 Program Improvements**

- √ Near-retirees earn partial benefits for each year they work
- ✓ Workers who live out of state can opt out
- ✓ Military spouses can opt out
- ✓ Workers on non-immigrant visas can opt out
- ✓ Veterans with 70%+ disability can opt out

## **KEY DATES**

January 1, 2023 Applications open for new groups eligible for exemptions. July 1, 2023
Contributions begin.
Self-employed
individuals can
opt in.

July 1, 2026 Benefits become available to qualified, eligible individuals.

### **LEARN MORE**

Visit wacaresfund.wa.gov to learn more about earning and claiming your benefits.

## FOR QUESTIONS

Email wacaresfund@dshs.wa.gov Phone 844-CARE4WA