STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

December 11, 2025

HCLA:AFH #2025-050
HCLA:ALF #2025-050
HCLA:ESF #2025-037
HCLA:NH #2025-060
HCLA:CCRSS #2025-016
WA CARES FUND PILOT PROGRAM

Dear Provider, Administrator, or Superintendent:

The WA Cares Fund helps Washington workers earn long-term care benefits. WA Cares will start accepting applications and providing benefits to a small group of participants in a pilot program in January 2026. Participants must live in Lewis, Mason, Spokane or Thurston counties and meet the contribution and care needs requirements. Registered providers who offer services in pilot counties or statewide can participate in the pilot. Participants in the pilot must not be enrolled in Medicaid.

WA Cares will rely on qualified providers to offer a wide range of covered services and supports, including care in a residential setting. You can become a registered provider to increase your client base and join a growing, innovative care network. WA Cares benefits can support current and future residents including private pay residents and short-term placements. WA Cares can also provide additional care for individuals during hospital discharge and planning.

WA Cares is excited to work and partner with Residential Care Services to provide Washingtonians with access to this first-in-the-nation program. For more information, visit the WA Cares website and view the Pilot handout.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*