

COMMUNITY PARTNER CONNECTION

Transforming Lives

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016



Camp Korey 2016

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***Applications are now open
for Camp Korey's 2016
Summer Camp! Deadline
to apply is April 30, 2016!***

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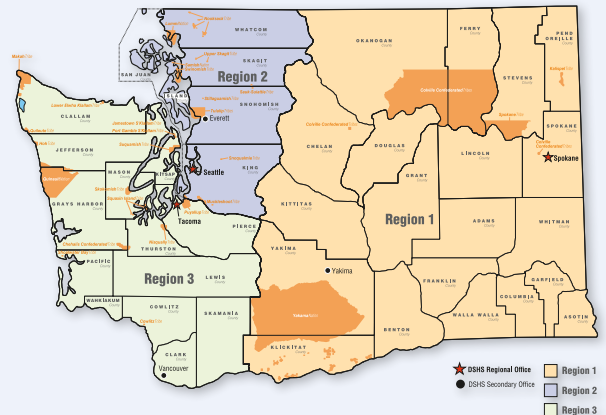
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Wenatchee's Opportunity Community Event

The United Way of Chelan and Douglas Counties sponsored a Prosperity Summit with Donna Beegle to draw attention to issues of poverty in our communities. The community response was so positive that we moved forward with one of the models introduced at the summit – the Opportunity Community model – which creates opportunities for individuals and families living in poverty (referred to in the model as Neighbors) to connect with resources through relationships with community members (known as Navigators).

The Opportunity Community event, which took place in November, was a great success for those who attended. Beegle presented her story and shared the benefits of connecting with community resources. The conference provided childcare, breakfast and lunch and all attendees received gift

bags of personal and household items. Navigators accompanied Neighbors to a resource room where agencies had information available about their various services.

Several Wenatchee Community Services Office, Division of Child Support and Chelan Douglas WorkFirst Local Planning Area staff participated in the event planning, assisted during the conference in the childcare and resource rooms, and served as Navigators for a Neighbor family. United Way is planning another Opportunity Community event with the hopes of continuing outreach in all segments of the community.



Applications now open for Camp Korey's 2016 Summer Camp!

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS APRIL 30, 2016!

Camp Korey empowers children and families living with serious medical conditions through year-round, life-changing camp experiences, always free of charge.

Located in Washington's Snoqualmie Valley amidst the rich history and natural beauty of the 818-acre Carnation Farm, Camp Korey provides endless opportunities for joy, growth and healing. As a member of the SeriousFun Children's Network, founded by Paul Newman, our innovative programs help families reclaim the joyful adventures of childhood, so kids can just be kids.

Camp Korey's overnight summer camp lasts for one work week (Monday to Friday). We host eight sessions total, each serving about 60 kids. Camp activities include boating and fishing, arts and crafts, horseback riding, an indoor rock wall, ropes course with zip-line, swimming, singing, dancing, cheering and much more. Programs and adventures are created to be universally accessible and adaptable for all, and help to foster a sense of pride, accomplishment and independence. Camp Korey promotes an inclusive environment, following a challenge-by-choice model where every accomplishment is celebrated!

Camp Korey serves children between 5 and 16 years of age with skeletal dysplasia, craniofacial conditions, dermatologic conditions, solid organ transplants, mitochondrial disease,

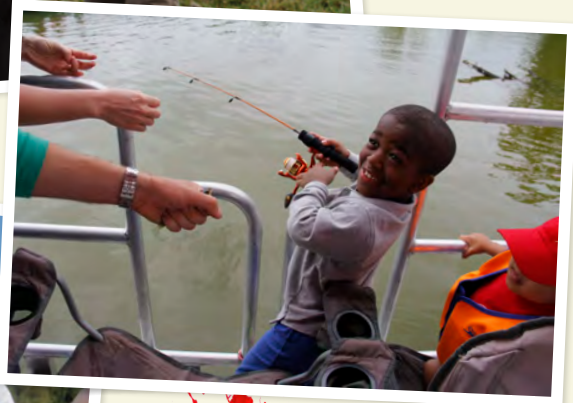
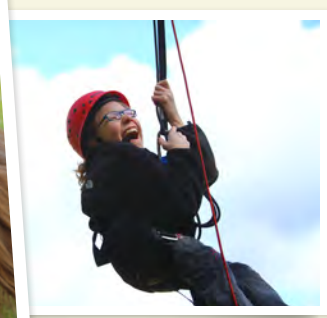


CAMP KOREY continued on next page

REGION 2 continued

orthopedic conditions, neuromuscular conditions, cerebral palsy, chronic kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome, epilepsy, genetic syndromes, reconstructive pelvic medicine conditions, traumatic brain injuries and many other medical diagnoses. We accommodate a variety of dietary needs. Camp Korey is fully supported by a team of trained medical volunteers and staff. Physicians and nurses from throughout the Pacific Northwest provide care and supervision whenever camp is in session. Our state-of-the-art Grey Gables Medical Center is fully equipped to assist campers with their daily medical needs and includes private rooms, a pharmacy and more. Medical staff is on-site 24 hours a day during camp sessions to offer routine and incidental care.

Spots for our 2016 summer season are already filling up quickly. Please contact Shivani Gogna, Camper and Family Liaison, at (425) 844-3226 or camperrecruiter@campkorey.org if you have any questions or want to learn more. Visit www.CampKorey.org/summercamp to see our Summer Camp schedule and to apply today!



Associated Ministries of Tacoma-Pierce County in the Community

“Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) allows me the opportunity to reach out and make a difference in the lives we touch as we help others meet their tax obligations,” says Susan Simmons, a longtime volunteer with the VITA program, which provides free basic tax return preparation for eligible taxpayers.

Why is this important? For plenty of hardworking families, filing taxes and receiving a refund is a chance to catch up on bills and pay for basic needs. Two important tax credits, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC), can provide

eligible households with up to \$6,242 in additional tax refunds for the EITC, and as much as \$1,000 per qualifying child for the CTC. Unfortunately, one in five eligible workers doesn’t claim these credits.

VITA has 24 sites throughout Pierce County that offer free tax preparation. Volunteers receive IRS certification and training so people know the person helping them complete their taxes is educated in the current tax codes.

ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES continued on next page

ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES continued

“I became involved with the program back in the 1990s as part of a two-year work detail and managed the Pierce County sites much in the same way Associated Ministries is doing today,” Simmons states. “I have been an involved volunteer for much of my life with various organizations, all having provided me with the gift of giving. It gives me the time to share my background in tax law and work experience with other volunteers and unique solutions to each person that I assist.”

Please check us out online at www.VolunteerTaxHelp.org, where you can find sites in Pierce County or to sign up to volunteer. For more information, contact Wendy Morris at wendym@associatedministries.org or (253) 383-3056.



“You really brightened my day and made me smile.”

– Homeowner



Paint Tacoma-Pierce County Beautiful

“A miracle come true” is how homeowner Karen describes the experience of having her home painted through the Paint Tacoma-Pierce County Beautiful program. During one week in July, volunteers from Habitat for Humanity’s AmeriCorps program were not only able to transform the outside of Karen’s home but lift her spirits, too.

During this summer hundreds of volunteers came together from throughout the Pierce County community to help paint the homes of 24 low-income homeowners. Crews were formed through faith communities, workplaces, unions, schools and military service to name just a few. When asked why they volunteered, many responded that they do so for the camaraderie, sense of community and the joy it brings to the homeowner.

We are fortunate to have many volunteers return year after year and 2015 was no exception. This was the 25th year that Spanaway Lutheran Church has painted a home and the 31st year for the Exchange Club of Tacoma, who painted the very first house back in 1985.

We are thankful to our partners, including Habitat for Humanity, who provided the paint for the homes; and Gray Lumber and Sherwin Williams, who made sure that the volunteers had the materials they needed to complete the projects. We are also grateful for the City of Tacoma, Sequoia Foundation and Florence B. Kilworth Foundation for providing the funding, along with many individual and congregation donors.

And, of course, the program would not be possible without volunteers. Homeowners continue to express their gratitude to the wonderful volunteers who helped this year:

“You really brightened my day and made me smile (still smiling). I’m really enjoying the great new look – what a difference it has made having the foundation painted! Thanks again for the wonderful service PTB does for us lower income seniors! God bless you.”

Associated Ministries is grateful to all the volunteers who painted, assessed homes and helped spread the word to homeowners and the community about the program. For more information, contact Wendy Morris at wendym@associatedministries.org or (253) 383-3056

DSHS Policy & Program Updates

Abled Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD)

New work requirements for childless adults to keep Basic Food benefits in King, Snohomish and parts of Pierce County in 2016.

As of Jan. 1, 2016, the three-month limit on Basic Food assistance for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) returns. An ABAWD who does not participate in a qualifying work activity cannot get more than three months of Basic Food assistance in a 36-month period.

Who is considered an ABAWD?

An ABAWD is an individual who is 18 years to 49 years old, able to work and does not reside with a minor child. All ABAWDs residing in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties (except for the cities of Lakewood and Tacoma) are required to participate in a qualifying work activity.

What is a “Qualifying Work Activity”?

Qualifying work activities include:

- Working at least 20 hours per week, averaged monthly (80 hours per month); or
- Participating in a state-approved employment and training program; or
- Completing 16 hours of unpaid volunteer work.

ABAWDs in the affected counties must participate in one or a combination of these qualifying work activities.

What are the Approved Training Programs?

State-approved employment and training programs include but are not limited to:

- Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET),
- Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE),
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pathways,

- Refugee with Special Employment Needs (RSEN),
- AmeriCorps Vista, and
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

DSHS administers the Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) program. Participants in the BFET program receive:

- Job search training to enhance job readiness,
- Basic and vocational training to improve employability in a skill or trade, and
- Job retention skills to help achieve satisfactory performance.

These employment and training programs are provided through a partnership with DSHS and 34 community and technical colleges and 29 community-based organizations.

DSHS also oversees the Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) program in King, Pierce, Yakima and Spokane counties. The RISE program helps people who may lack the needed work experience to obtain meaningful employment. ABAWDs in the RISE program participate in similar activities as BFET and also receive comprehensive case management, work-based learning and strategies for success activities.

Who can I contact for help keeping my Basic Food benefits?

For help keeping your Basic Food benefits:

- Email DSHS at jobhelp@dshs.wa.gov, or
- Visit your local Community Service Office, or
- Call the Customer Contact Service Center at 877-501-2233.

For more information, please visit www.dshs.wa.gov/abawd

The RISE Purpose

RISE is an Employment and Training Pilot (E&T) designed to fill the gap currently experienced by Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) participants who face multiple barriers and lack the needed work experience to obtain employment. Through collaborative efforts, the success of RISE will be measured not only by increased employment opportunities for SNAP recipients but also through complete and compelling data that supports the effectiveness of

the model, and a clear roadmap for sustainability after three years. Pilot participants will gain skills and education leading to employment or increased earnings.

The Agriculture Act of 2014, also known as the 2014 Farm Bill,

authorized \$200 million to fund 10 grants for pilot sites nationwide. The grantee states include California, Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, Kentucky, Illinois, Vermont, Virginia and Washington. The purpose of the E&T pilots is to:

- Raise the number of SNAP work registrants who obtain unsubsidized employment;
- Increase the earned income of the registrants; and
- Reduce the reliance of the registrants on public assistance.

The E&T pilots present a unique opportunity to test a range of innovative and promising approaches and strategies that help SNAP work registrants.

For additional information please review the RISE webpage at the address below.

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-partnership-program/resources-initiate-successful-employment-rise>.



Tips and Hints

Filling Out the Online Application

1. Does the applicant need to list all roommates? Under “Household members,” the application states “list everyone in the home even if you do not want to include them in benefits.” Does this include those who share a home but not food or other resources?

ANSWER: Yes, all people living in the house need to be listed.

2. If all roommates need to be listed, is it okay to submit without additional information? Applicants may not know the full name, date of birth, Social Security number, income, etc., for all roommates?

ANSWER: We do not require personal information for anyone who is not applying for benefits. During the interview, the financial worker will determine if other members need to be included in the household and then will ask for personal information.

3. Does the applicant need to list boyfriend/girlfriend/roommate and count their income if they occasionally share food, but each is expected to put in their own 50-50 contribution toward food?

ANSWER: Every person living in the household must be listed on the application. The remaining questions on the application pertain only to those applying for benefits.

4. For housing and shelter questions, does the applicant need to list the full amount of utilities and rent somewhere, or just their individual portion? Often in roommate situations, the applicant may not know the full amount, only the portion they contribute monthly.

ANSWER: The applicant should enter the amount of shelter expenses for which they are responsible. A comment section at the end of the application is available if additional explanation is necessary. After submitting an application, the applicant must go through an interview. During this interview, the financial worker will ask questions relative to the income, expenses, household composition, etc., to determine the correct eligibility factors. Afterwards, the financial worker will verify rental expenses with the landlord and the sub-leaser through a phone call or collateral statement.



Partnership in Focus

Are you a Washington Connection Community Partner? Does your organization have an inspiring community story or an upcoming event to share? Would you like to share your short story in this newsletter? Please contact Stephanie Hill at Stephanie.Hill@dshs.wa.gov for more information.

Mid-Certification Review

1. Can we help a client complete the Mid-Certification Review from our Partner Account?

ANSWER: No. To protect the client’s confidential information, the online Mid-Certification Review (MCR) is only available through the Client Benefit Account. A link to the prefilled MCR form will appear on the “Important Dates” page when the due date is coming up. You may assist the client in finding the MCR form in their Client Benefit Account on the “Important Dates” page.

The link to MCR will only display in the Client Benefit Account when it is due. It will appear 45 days before the end of the sixth month of the client’s certification period, and will remain through the end of the sixth month. (Example: If the certification period is January-December, the link to MCR will display on May 17 and will be available through June 30.) If the MCR Due Date is blank, that means the MCR is either not currently due or has passed the month in which it was recently due. Per WAC 388-418-0011, if an MCR isn’t received by the last day of the seventh month, the client has to reapply.

“Client Search” Feature

- How can we find out if another assisting agency has submitted an application for a client who comes to our agency for help?

ANSWER: Partners are not able to see that information through their partner account. However, you may use the “Search for a DSHS/HCA Client” feature in the partner account to run a query for this client. If the Benefit Summary shows “Approved” or “Pending” under Benefit Status, it is a good indication that an application was submitted.

Summary [Help with this Page](#)

Organization Name: Email Format Testing
 Organization Address: 724 Duinco St Se, Olympia, WA 98504
 Organization Phone Number: 360-864-4570

Request Types Menu:
 Add User
 Modify/Inactivate User
 Transfer Unfinished Applications
 Check Request Status
 Search for a DSHS/HCA client

Unfinished Applications | Finished Applications | Employee Id: [] Search

Tracking ID	Application Type	Client Name	Date Started	Last Modified	Status	Assigned Worker	PDF View
200007891	New		04/17/2012	04/17/2012 7:33 AM	Not submitted	testcssup	
200007893	New		04/17/2012	04/17/2012 9:40 AM	Not submitted	testcssup	
200008002	New	App Furgetester	05/15/2012	05/15/2012 10:10 AM	Not submitted	testcssup	
200008105	New	Aaa Aaa	06/05/2012	06/05/2012 4:12 PM	Submitted	testcssup	
200008231	New	Aaa Aaa	06/20/2012	06/20/2012 11:32 AM	Not submitted	testcssup	

In the Partner Account, use the Search for a DSHS/HCA client feature.

WASHINGTON CONNECTION DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT
 your link to services

Home | My Account | About This Site
 English | Español | Hello Brian Pereault (Email Format Testing) | Logout

Search for a DSHS/HCA client

To search for a person you must enter the following information:

- Name and Social Security Number or
- You can also search by Client id

ACES Client Identification Number: []
 First Name: []
 Last Name: []
 Social Security Number: [][][]-[][][]-[][][]
 Number of months to search: [1]

[Next >>](#)

The client information available on this website is confidential under state and federal law. Do not:

- Access or use this confidential information for any reason other than the purpose in your agreement with DSHS
- Share or disclose the information
- Keep this information in such a way that it could be accessed by anyone who is not allowed to see it

Laws include: RCW 74.04.060, RCW 42.56.230(1), 45 CFR 205.50, 42 CFR 431.301, 7 CFR 272.3, and the HIPAA Privacy Rule - 45 CFR §160 to 45 CFR §164.

Enter the client's information.

Searches must include either the Client ID or both the Full name and SSN.
 Searches can be for up to 12 months

Benefit Summary [Back to Summary](#)

Note: Any medical programs listed below are programs supported by this website. For information on Washington Apple Health coverage for children, parent/caretaker with children, pregnant women, and/or adults (age 18 to 64 years old), go to the Washington Healthplanfinder site by clicking [here](#).

[Back to Search](#)

Benefit Type	Benefit Status	Current Month (November 2015)
Food Assistance	Pending	\$ 0.00

Under Benefit Status, look for Approved or Pending.

“Client Search” Feature (continued)

2. How can we find out if a client’s Eligibility Review is past due? How can we help them if it’s past due?

ANSWER: The due date of the eligibility review can be found in the Client Benefit Account on the “Important Dates” page. Only medical assistance related to SSI, Medicare cost sharing or Long-Term Care AUs will show in the CBA (MAGI AUs won’t show anything in Washington Connection). If the “Review Due Date” is prior to the current date then the review is past due. The benefit status would be likely in “Closed” status. In this case, they need to submit a new application.

The eligibility review due date can be found on the Important Dates page

Benefit Type	Review Due Date	Mid Certification Due Date
Cash Assistance	10/31/2016	
Food Assistance	10/31/2016	

For “Spendedown Medical,” when it’s in M status it shows “Spendedown Medical” in the CBA:

Medicare Savings Program (Assistance Unit)	
Benefit Month	Benefit Status
December, 2015	Active
November, 2015	Active
October, 2015	Active
September, 2015	Active
August, 2015	Active

Spendedown Medical (Assistance Unit)	
Benefit Month	Benefit Status
December, 2015	Spendedown Medical
November, 2015	Spendedown Medical
October, 2015	Spendedown Medical
September, 2015	Spendedown Medical
August, 2015	Spendedown Medical

Spendedown Medical shown here.

SAW Account and Client Benefit Account

1. If a client doesn’t have a SAW (SecureAccess Washington) account, would it be a good idea to help them set up a SAW account?

ANSWER: It’s a great idea to help the client create a SAW account as it’s the first step in creating and accessing their DSHS Client Benefit Account (CBA). Applicants are able to set up their SAW account immediately. However, to set up a DSHS CBA, the DSHS needs to federally verify the Social Security number, the client must be listed as the head of household for an active, pending, suspended or pending spenddown DSHS program, or be listed as the head of household for a closed or denied DSHS program within the last 60 days.

It’s a great idea to provide the customer with instruction on how to set up their CBA. This will allow them to monitor their benefit history and renewal schedule. Both the SAW and CBA accounts require the client to have an email address. If they don’t have an email address, it would be a great idea to help them create an email account.

Medical Assistance for Single Alien Individuals

1. If a client is a single alien individual, can we help this person apply for medical assistance?

ANSWER: You may be able to help this person apply for one of the following programs if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Medical Care Services (MCS) is a state-funded program that provides limited medical assistance for **lawfully present adults** who are found eligible for Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) cash assistance or the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral Program but are ineligible for Medicaid due to their immigration status. You may help someone apply for this program online at www.washingtonconnection.org and selecting **Cash** for the ABD program or by completing the DSHS 14-001 Application for Benefits. If the person is found eligible for ABD or a HEN Referral but is ineligible for Medicaid, they may qualify for the MCS program.

Alien Emergency Medical (AEM) is a program for adults who **do not meet the citizenship or immigration status** requirements of other Apple Health programs. Individuals with a qualifying emergency medical condition who meet the following criteria can apply online at www.washingtonconnection.org or by completing the Application for Long-Term Care/Aged, Blind, Disabled Coverage (HCA 18-005):

- **Age 65 or older** and not a caretaker for a child under age 18;
- Receiving Medicare; or
- Seeking long-term care services and **not** related to a MAGI-based Apple Health program.

Individual with a qualifying emergency medical condition who meets the following criteria can apply by completing the Application for Health Care Coverage (HCA 18-001):

- Age 19 to 64; or age 65 or older if a caretaker for a child under age 18;
- Not receiving Medicare unless related to a MAGI-based Apple Health program for families; or
- Seeking long-term care services and related to a MAGI-based Apple Health program

This application can be downloaded from the Health Care Authority website.

A qualifying medical condition will include at least one of the following:

- Emergency room care, inpatient admission, or outpatient surgery;
- A cancer treatment plan;
- Dialysis treatment;
- Anti-rejection medication for an organ transplant; or
- Long-Term Care services.

Authorized Representative

1. If we are the Authorized Representative for a client, do we have to mail or fax the client's consent form to DSHS?

ANSWER: Yes, it is necessary to mail or fax the client's consent form to DSHS after you provide the e-signature on the Washington Connection online application or eligibility renewal. In the future, when the "uploading document" feature becomes available, the Authorized Representative will be able to upload and send the consent form image to DSHS attached to the online application or eligibility renewal.

Basic Food Outreach Contractors

1. My agency is a Basic Food outreach contractor (or subcontractor). Would we get credit if we help a client submit a partial online application?

ANSWER: For Basic Food outreach contractor or subcontractor, a few factors contribute to a payment for a Basic Food application. However, DSHS does not withhold payment for incomplete applications. DSHS may withhold payment for other reasons and they are always explained in the invoicing process.

Public Access Directory

1. Where can we find the list of community partners in each county?

ANSWER: All registered community partners with public access are listed online on the Public Access Directory page (<https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home/publicaccessdirectory.go>). This link is on the Washington Connection home page navigation panel under "Community Partner Resources." You may click on the map of your county and see the names and contact information of other Host Organizations and Assisting Agencies in your county. This link is also available under "How Do I – Find help in my community" on the home page.

2. How can we update our agency's information on the Public Access Directory?

ANSWER: You may update the information in your Washington Connection Partner Account. Once it's updated, the new information will automatically display on the Public Access Directory. You should also inform DSHS about your agency's update information. Send the update information to your Regional Partnership Consultant or Stephanie.Hill@dshs.wa.gov so your agency's profile and data share agreement can be updated.