



WA Cares Fund (LTSS Trust) on track for Jan. 1, 2022

Employers begin reporting and assessing premiums Jan. 1, 2022

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Oversight Committee says Employment Security Department (ESD) is on track to implement WA Cares beginning Jan. 1, 2022. Visit the [OCIO Dashboard](#) for more details.

Paid Leave paved the way for ESD and employers to implement the new WA Cares Fund. ESD is integrating WA Cares into the Paid Leave reporting system, so employers only report and pay once for both.

ESD is building on successful employer outreach strategies for Paid Leave. Higher revenues in the first quarters of Paid Leave indicate employers had the info they needed to be successful. We're currently deploying a similar communication and outreach plan for WA Cares with tactics we know work.

WA Cares outreach timeline incorporates employer feedback and lessons learned from Paid Leave. We're sending employers information they can act on, well in advance of premium collection.

Straightforward reporting and simple premiums inform outreach

Straightforward Employer Reporting

Spring Website Launch

Spring - Summer Communication

Fall - Winter Outreach

Employee exemptions

Employer reporting

Self-employed

E-Newsletter

Postal mailings

Webinars

Tutorial videos

Straightforward Employer Reporting

Employers will use **one process to report wages and pay premiums** for both Paid Leave and WA Cares—in a system they're already familiar with. **WA Cares premiums are also less complex**, as employers won't pay any share of these and won't pay into the WA Cares Fund themselves.

Spring Website Launch

The joint DSHS-ESD WA Cares website launched in April 2021 and includes information for employers **about employee exemptions, employer reporting requirements, and options for the self-employed.**

Spring–Summer Direct Employer Communication

Beginning in May 2021, employers began receiving a new ESD e-newsletter that combines updates for WA Cares and Paid Leave. The newsletter is being sent twice per month and features reporting tips, employer resources for communicating with their workers, opportunities to engage in rulemaking, and links to new educational materials. **In August 2021, employers will begin seeing information about WA Cares in postal mail** from ESD. Examples include inserts in quarterly unemployment insurance mailings as well as stand-alone mailings to employers that participate in Paid Leave and those that have voluntary plans.

Fall–Winter Outreach and Education

Beginning in September 2021, ESD will ramp up promotion of WA Cares info, offering webinars and tutorial videos, in addition to continued direct email and postal mail communication.