



Introducing WA Cares Fund

Washington is the first state in the nation to develop a public plan that makes long-term care insurance affordable. WA Cares Fund gives members access to a lifetime benefit they can use on a wide range of long-term services and supports when they need it.

Employer responsibilities

Collecting premiums. Employers won't pay any share of premiums for their employees. Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, however, you'll be required to report your employees' wages and hours and collect WA Cares premiums from your employees' wages—the same way you do now for Paid Leave.

No payroll? No report. You don't have to file a report for quarters where your employees had no hours or wages.

Tracking employee exemptions. Some employees may choose to apply for an exemption from WA Cares coverage. It's their responsibility to apply and—if approved—to notify and give you a copy of their approval letter from the Employment Security Department (ESD). Once approved, exemptions are permanent and employees can never opt back in.

Once notified, employers must:

- Not deduct WA Cares premiums from workers after the effective date on their approval letter.
- Keep a copy of their workers' approval letters on file.

You can still continue offering long-term care insurance to your employees. You still have the option to offer private long-term care insurance to your employees, but it's their responsibility to decide whether to apply for an exemption from WA Cares coverage. You can't apply for exemptions on behalf of your employees.

Learn more on wacaresfund.wa.gov. There's plenty to know about WA Cares, and we're committed to making your experience as easy as possible with helpful information and resources. Visit wacaresfund.wa.gov where you can:

- **Sign up for webinars** and get answers to your questions at wacaresfund.wa.gov/learn-more.
- **Subscribe to our newsletter** and get monthly messages to share with your employees at [wacaresfund.wa.gov/employer toolkit](https://wacaresfund.wa.gov/employer-toolkit).
- **Learn more** about your role as an employer at wacaresfund.wa.gov/employers.

Sincerely,

The WA Cares Fund team