

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCES

NWRC

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COPES or Medicaid Long-Term Care: How to Apply

What is COPES and What Services may be Available?

Medicaid Long-Term Care, also known as “The COPES Program” is funded through the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) – Home and Community Services (HCS) office. It is intended to provide long-term assistance to people who need care in their home, in an Assisted Living facility or in a Skilled Nursing Facility.

Benefits for those on the COPES Program may include:

- ❖ Services provided in the home, assisted living facilities, adult family homes and nursing homes.
- ❖ Personal care services include help with activities of daily living such as walking, dressing, bathing, toileting, and certain household tasks.
- ❖ Medicaid card (ProviderOne card), which may pay for other medical expenses, including physician services, home health services and Medicare premiums.
- ❖ In-Home Care may also provide home delivered meals, Adult Day Health program, home safety improvements, and personal emergency response units.
- ❖ A case manager to help plan and monitor their care.

Two ways to apply:

- ❶ Request an application packet by calling Aging and Disability resources at (360)428-1309, or the HCS office at (360) 429-2961
 - ❷ Complete an online application at www.washingtonconnection.org
If you have questions regarding the application and would like one-on-one assistance, you can contact Aging & Disability Resources at (360) 428-1309 for an appointment.
- ❖ Return paper application to HCS at 900 E College Way Suite 210, Mt Vernon, WA 98273. Alternatively, you may mail it to:
DSHS-Home & Community Services, Mt Vernon HCS, PO Box 45826, Olympia WA 98504-5826.
 - ❖ You will need to submit documentation to verify answers; copies of bank statements, picture ID, Social Security Card, etc. Refer to the checklist on the application for specifics.
 - ❖ An HCS financial worker will review your application and determine your financial eligibility. In some cases further documentation is requested via a mailed letter.
 - ❖ After this a functional assessment will be completed. You will be contacted by an intake worker from HCS who will speak with you on the phone and assign a social worker to conduct the “CARE” assessment of the person needing care. This interview will take place in the home or facility and may take 2-3 hours. The interview will cover all the activities of daily living with which the person needs assistance.
 - ❖ Once the financial worker and the social worker determine eligibility, services are initiated. A service plan will be developed and approved by the recipient. **The entire process may take 6-10 weeks from the time you submit an application, depending on how many other applicants there are at any given time.**

This handout outlines the COPES program application process. For financial criteria please see the following Columbia Legal Services handouts available at www.washingtonlawhelp.org ⇒ Aging/Elder Law, or from Aging & Disability Resources:

- *Questions and Answers on the COPES Program*
- *Estate Recovery for Medical Services paid for by the State*