



Washington State Long Term Care Plan

Sheet Metal Local 55

Dear Members,

Starting on January 1st, 2022 Washington State will begin a .0058% payroll tax on all W-2 workers unless you have other qualified long term care coverage prior to November 1, 2021 and request an exemption beginning October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. This means that you will pay \$0.58 per every \$100 of earning.

Eligibility

- To receive the benefit, you must have contributed
 1. At least 10 years without a break of 5 or more years, or
 2. Contributed 3 of the past 6 years have a need for assistance with activities of daily living at the time of application.
 3. To receive benefits, you would need assistance with at least three activities of daily living such as: medication management, personal hygiene, eating, toileting, cognitive function, transfer assistance, body care, bathing, ambulation/ mobility, dressing. You must be at least 18 years of age and a current resident of Washington State to receive long-term care benefit. **This does not go with you if you move or retire to a different state.**
 4. To read more go to <http://www.wacaresfund.wa.gov/applying-for-benefits>

Benefit

- Starting January 1st 2025, proceeds of this assessment will be used to provide long term services and support benefits
 - 1) Upon becoming eligible a person may receive services of up to \$36,500 over the course of their lifetime
 - 2) You are eligible to receive up to \$100 per day for expenses associated with needed assistance of daily living.
 - 3) To read more go to <http://www.wacaresfund.wa.gov/wa-cares-benefits>

Opt Out Option

- There is the ability to opt out of this payroll tax if conditions are met
 1. If you already have qualifying or purchase a qualifying long term care that is active before November 1st, 2021 you can submit an exemption application to the Employment Security Department (ESD).
 2. Exemption Applications are available starting October 1st 2021
 3. The ESD will only except applications through December 31st 2022
 4. To be sure the Long Term Care insurance you have or are considering qualifies, it must comply with Washington Insurance Code (Title 48) (leg.wa.gov) <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=48>, Washington Administrative Code (Title 284) (leg.wa.gov) <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=284> and is an approved company through the OIC or Insurance Interstate Product Regulation Commission (IIPRC).<https://www.insurance.wa.gov/long-term-care-insurance-companies-approved-sell-washington-state>
 5. Here is a link to the Long-term care insurance companies approved to sell in Washington State per the office of the Insurance Commissioner <https://www.insurance.wa.gov/long-term-care-insurance-companies-approved-sell-washington-state>

Approved Application

- If you qualify for an exemption you will receive an approval letter
 1. You will be expelled from the program with no option to re-enroll
 2. You will be disqualified from accessing WA Cares Benefits in your lifetime
 3. You will be required to present your exemption approval letter to all current and future employers. **If you fail to present your ESD approval letter, employers will withhold non-refundable WA Cares premiums.**
 4. Exemptions will take effect the quarter after your application is approved

Covered Plans

- Be aware that LTC plans can be a standalone insurance plan, or it could life insurance/ annuities with an LTC rider. If you are looking to opt out and have or are looking to get LTC be **sure** it meets the required guidelines.