

Skilled Nursing Facility Care is Under Threat in WA State

When Washington's Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) care for residents who depend on Medicaid, they are not reimbursed for the full cost of care. This has deep and long-lasting impacts on the state's entire healthcare sector - **and more cuts may be coming.**

THE EXISTING FUNDING GAP

62%

of SNF residents rely on Medicaid to fund their care.

18k

workers are employed by Washington SNFs.

2022

Current SNF Medicaid reimbursement rates are based on 2022 labor costs.

\$89 MILLION

is the current annual shortfall in Medicaid funding

THE IMPACT



A survey of Washington SNF providers reveals that a reduction of just **5%** in Medicaid funding would mean:

99% would have to cut staff or services

99% would have to reduce admissions from hospitals

66% would have to consider closing permanently

By law, SNFs require 24/7 RN coverage and 3.4 face-to-face nursing hours daily for each resident.

Cutting staff to save the state Medicaid dollars is not an option.

“ Medicaid cuts will be devastating for us.

This will force us to limit admission. We can't sustain keeping our staff, which may result in more devastating consequences. ”

Lou Antiquiera,
Administrator
Pacific Care Center
Hoquiam

James Duncan,
Administrator
Sunnyside Care Center
Sunnyside

“ Right now, half of our residents have Medicaid. If there were to be cuts, it would be almost impossible to pay all the required bills, including staff. ”

“ A 75-bed SNF can lose \$480,000 per year in Medicaid services we do not get paid for. That is equal to the wages of 10 CNAs... If the Washington State Governor or Legislature actually cared about their older citizens, they would instead be looking at increasing SNF reimbursement. ”

Mark Sanders,
Administrator
Willow Creek Care Center
Yakima

On any given day, there are 845 patients in Washington hospitals waiting to be discharged into care, but with nowhere to go.

Medicaid cuts would force SNFs to cut workers and reduce admissions from hospitals, or close entirely. **Our state's most vulnerable residents won't have access to the care they need.**

TAKE ACTION



Contact Governor Ferguson Today

Call, email, or send a message to his office through the WHCA Advocacy Action Center and urge him to prioritize funding for Skilled Nursing care in the 2025-2027 state budget.

