

ORCAS COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER REPORT ON OIHCD FUNDING 2025



Impact

Funding provided by Orcas Island Health Care District to the Orcas Community Resource Center has been instrumental in addressing critical healthcare access barriers for members of our island community. To date, the Resource Center has utilized just over half of the \$40,000 available funding for 2025, providing nearly **200 services to 97 unique community members**. As we look ahead to the remaining months, our team at the Orcas Community Resource Center anticipates making an ongoing impact with the unused portion of funds, continuing to address urgent healthcare access needs across our island population. Through this vital partnership between the Health Care District and the Orcas Community Resource Center, island residents can access essential medical services that might otherwise remain out of reach such as:

Medical Ferry Transportation

Provided off-island ferry tickets and taxi fare for patients requiring specialized care unavailable on Orcas Island, ensuring critical appointments were not missed due to transportation barriers

Medical Lodging Assistance

Covered accommodation costs for patients requiring overnight stays for early morning appointments or multi-day treatment regimens

Medical Cost Support

Alleviated financial burden for clients facing overwhelming healthcare expenses, preventing medical debt and enabling continued care

Medical Equipment

Funded necessary medical devices and supplies that improve quality of life and support in-home recovery

Preventative Care

Funded mammogram screenings, enabling early detection and improved health outcomes for clients who would otherwise forgo this essential preventative service

Healthcare Journeys in Progress

Behind the statistics are real island residents currently navigating complex healthcare challenges with our unified support. These ongoing cases illustrate the critical importance of continued funding to ensure uninterrupted care for community members facing significant medical and financial barriers.



Maria's Critical Treatment Path

Maria, a single mother of two working multiple jobs, recently received a diagnosis requiring specialized treatment only available off-island. With limited savings and no family support network, she faces multiple mainland appointments over the next six months. Health Care District funding is currently supporting her initial diagnostic visits through ferry tickets and medical transportation assistance. As her treatment plan progresses, she will need continued support for follow-up appointments. Without this ongoing assistance, Maria would likely postpone critical care, risking her health and ability to work and care for her children.

Robert's Road to Recovery

Robert, an elderly resident who has lived independently on the island for decades, recently experienced a significant health event requiring emergency mainland hospital care. While the initial crisis has passed, his recovery requires multiple specialist follow-ups and adaptive equipment to maintain his independence at home. Health Care District funding has so far covered medical transportation costs for his first follow-up appointment. In the coming months, Robert will need continued support. This ongoing assistance is essential to prevent rehospitalization and to help Robert maintain the independence that means so much to him while remaining in the community he calls home.

Eleanor's Early Detection

Eleanor, a self-employed island resident without comprehensive health insurance, had been postponing her recommended mammogram for over two years due to financial concerns. After learning about available funding through the Resource Center, she was able to schedule this important preventive screening right here on Orcas Island. The initial screening revealed an area of concern requiring follow-up imaging and potentially a biopsy, which will need to be conducted off-island. Eleanor now faces several mainland medical appointments in the coming months. The continued support from this funding will be crucial in ensuring she can complete the necessary diagnostic process without delay, covering ferry transportation and potential medical lodging.

Community-Wide Benefits

The impact of this funding extends beyond individual clients to strengthen our entire island community.

Fostering a healthier island population

Removing barriers to essential preventative care and specialized medical services for 97 diverse community members

Preserving financial stability

Families who would otherwise face devastating choices between medical care and basic needs have received increased support

Supporting dignified living and self-sufficiency

Residents with chronic conditions have access to vital medical equipment and continuous care access

Building Community Resilience

Creating reliable healthcare safety net that addresses our unique island healthcare challenges

The Health Care District's investment in these services represents a commitment to health equity that recognizes our unique island challenges. By removing transportation and financial barriers to healthcare, this funding is truly a lifeline for many Orcas Island residents, as evidenced by the nearly 200 services provided.

*Thank you for your
ongoing partnership!*



Orcas Island
Health Care
District

