Orcas Community Resource Center
Health Care Access Fund: January–September 2026 Report and 2027 Renewal Request

Submitted to the Orcas Island Health Care District

The Orcas Community Resource Center is grateful for the Orcas Island Health Care District's continued investment in health care access. The Health Care Access Fund helps residents address expenses that can otherwise prevent them from receiving care, including ferry transportation, medical lodging, prescriptions, medical supplies, and preventive screening.

Through September 30, 2026, OCRC recorded $22,797.88 in direct assistance expenditures and supported 20 mammograms at $200 each, representing an additional $4,000 investment in preventive care. Together, these program expenses total $26,797.88. Administrative charges through September total $2,310.81 bringing total Health Care Access Fund allocations to $29,108.69.

Assistance Category	**Expenditures Through September**
Ferry transportation	$15,696.61
Medical lodging	$4,109.25
Ground transportation	$214.80
Other health-related assistance	$2,777.22
Mammograms: 20 screenings at $200 each	$4,000.00
Total direct assistance	**$26,797.88**

Note: Mammogram expenses are included as committed program expenses and will be reconciled in the year-end report.

Helping Residents Reach Care

Transportation was the largest expenditure category. The fund paid for ferry travel to medical appointments, testing, treatment, and other health-related needs. Ground transportation assistance also helped residents travel between medical facilities and ferry terminals.

For island residents, the cost of accessing care can extend well beyond the appointment itself. Ferry fares, overnight accommodations, and local transportation can create a significant financial burden, particularly when someone needs repeated appointments or cannot complete their travel in a single day.

Medical lodging assistance totaled **$4,109.25**, helping residents stay near off-island care when appointment schedules or travel circumstances required an overnight stay. Together, transportation and lodging support addressed practical barriers that could otherwise make care difficult to reach.

Supporting Treatment and Preventive Care

Other health-related assistance totaled **$2,777.22** and included medical bills, prescriptions, therapy copay assistance, vision care, medical supplies and equipment, and air medical transport memberships. These expenditures responded to individual needs, including wound care supplies and equipment for monitoring health conditions at home.

The fund also supported **20 mammograms**, helping residents access preventive screening. This investment complements assistance for immediate medical needs by supporting opportunities to identify health concerns earlier.

The fund's flexibility allows OCRC to respond to the particular expense standing between a resident and needed care. Help with a ferry ticket, prescription, or overnight stay can also ease pressure on a household budget already stretched by illness, reduced income, or other essential expenses.

In each case, the fund helped reduce a concrete barrier between a resident and needed medical care.

Anticipated Year-End Use

OCRC anticipates that all available 2026 funding will be expended by the end of the year, based on ongoing requests for assistance and anticipated needs during the final quarter. Final expenditures, administrative charges, and reimbursements will be reconciled in the year-end report.

2027 Renewal Request

Given continued demand for transportation, lodging, preventive screening, and other health-related assistance, OCRC respectfully requests continued funding of $40,000 for 2027, with $36,000 allocated to direct health care access assistance and $4,000 allocated to program administration.

The administrative allocation would help cover the work required to deliver and account for assistance, including reviewing requests, coordinating payments and travel arrangements, maintaining documentation, reconciling expenditures, and preparing reimbursement requests and reports.

Renewed funding would preserve a practical, locally managed resource for Orcas residents facing financial and geographic barriers to medical care. We appreciate the Health Care District's partnership and respectfully ask that this support continue in 2027. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erin O'Dell

Erin O'Dell
Executive Director
Orcas Community Resource Center