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## Deadline Extension for LPN Apprenticeship Pilot

*Olympia, WA* - Washington Health Care Association (WHCA) is sponsoring an apprenticeship pilot program for certified nursing assistants (NACs) who seek to advance their career as licensed practical nurses (LPNs) while working in the long-term care sector. Participating apprentices will complete their coursework at Edmonds College in Lynnwood, with the first cohort starting classes this fall.

Edmonds College has opened a second round of applications for the Practical Nursing (PN) program, which is prerequisite for acceptance into the LPN Apprenticeship program. Interested candidates have until Friday, August 16 to apply for the Edmonds PN program.

“We’re excited for our first cohort of apprentices to get started soon,” says Carma Matti-Jackson, President & CEO of WHCA, which represents more than 550 long-term care facilities throughout the state. “Our members are in desperate need of qualified staff, but with the high costs of education it’s increasingly difficult for long-term care facilities to compete for workers. This apprenticeship program is just one solution to the crisis, one that will incentivize students to pursue a meaningful career in long-term care.” As the program sponsor, WHCA is covering fifty percent of the tuition costs for apprentices, who will also receive paid on-the-job training as employees of participating skilled nursing facilities while they complete their coursework and training.

“We are excited to partner with WHCA to create this groundbreaking apprenticeship program,” said Edmonds College Director of Nursing Kyra McCoy. “This initiative will not only help address the

staffing challenges facing long-term care facilities but also provide a pathway for nursing assistants to become LPNs and prepare them to advance up the nursing career ladder if they choose to do so.”

Interested students should visit [whca.org/lpna](http://whca.org/lpna) to review the LPN Apprenticeship program details and qualifications. The program is open to Washington residents within a commutable distance to Edmonds College, where they will complete some in-person coursework, who hold a current nursing assistant certification. An application to the Edmonds College PN program must be completed in addition to applying to the apprenticeship.

WHCA will invite up to ten qualified apprentices to join the pilot cohort.

### **About Washington Health Care Association (WHCA)**

Washington Health Care Association is a nonprofit professional association for the long-term care community in Washington and represents 155 skilled nursing facilities and 397 assisted living providers. In partnership with these member facilities and business partners, WHCA promotes and advocates for healthy, affordable, and ethical long-term care at the state and federal levels. WHCA provides education, professional development, and support to providers to ensure that residents in long-term care facilities throughout Washington receive the highest quality care. For more information, visit [whca.org](http://whca.org).

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