

Expansion of Cancer Care Fuel Card Program for Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties

Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD)

Background

Over 20 years ago, NETCHD and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life created a donation-based fuel voucher program to help Stevens County residents travel for cancer treatment.

2021 NETCHD assessment identified transportation and limited healthcare access as major regional barriers.

A 2023–2024 Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center grant and donations allowed NETCHD to expand its fuel assistance program to Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties.

The expanded program supported 102 residents.

NETCHD also prioritized improving early cancer detection awareness for 2025.

Program Goals

Provide fuel cards twice per calendar year for residents traveling for diagnostic services not available locally.

Continue fuel assistance twice per calendar year for clients with on going cancer treatment.

Share resources for additional travel or lodging support.

Increase community awareness to boost cancer screening rates.

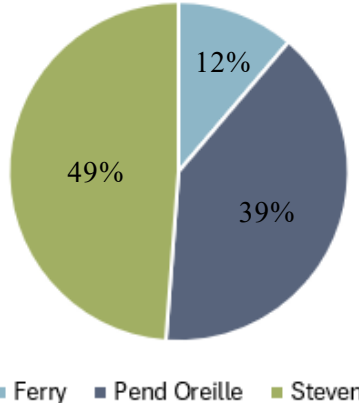
Program Impact

During 3/2025 to 3/2026, 94 community members have received funding.

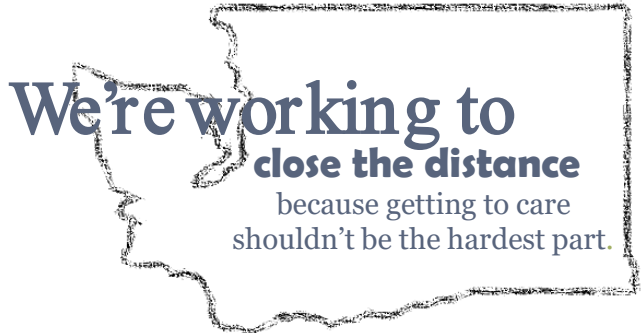
Since 9/2023, 232 encounters have been recorded to date.

Total # of Encounters for 3/2025 – 3/2026 **129**

County Encounter Summary



County	Count	Share of Total
Ferry	15	12%
Pend Oreille	51	39%
Stevens	63	49%



What We're Hearing

Strengthened relationship between NETCHD, providers, & community members.

On average, community members travel approximately 122 miles from Ferry County, 57 miles from Pend Oreille County, and 77 miles from Stevens County to receive care.

“I think it’s wonderful that there’s help available out here at all.”
- Participant, Cancer Fuel Card Program

“Even with health insurance, the out-of-pocket costs for treatments, medications, and daily living expenses can quickly add up, creating a financial burden for many families. This program helps reduce some of that burden.”
- Sam Artzis (MD) Health Officer, Cancer Fuel Card Program

What's Next

Increase awareness of screening options, including at-home alternatives, to reduce travel and improve preventive care access.

Promote the program and encourage on going local donations to sustain and expand services.



Learn more



Made possible for residents of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties through the support of Fred Hutch, and donations from local community members.