



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

October 13, 2023

AL TSA: AFH #2023-035
AL TSA: ALF #2023-025
AL TSA: ESF #2023-022
AL TSA: CCRSS #2023-019

**BASIC TRAINING DEADLINES AND HOME CARE AIDE CERTIFICATION
DEADLINE CHANGES FOR LONG-TERM CARE WORKER QUALIFICATIONS
RELATED TO COVID-19**

Dear Provider/Administrator:

This letter is to share information about changes to home care aide (HCA) certification deadlines.

Background:

The long-term care worker (LTCW) training and certification requirements were extended during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) filed a series of emergency rules extending the deadlines for HCA training, certification, and continuing education (CE) due to challenges with availability of training and testing related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Department of Health (DOH) filed a series of emergency rules amending certification deadlines for individuals working toward certification as an HCA or nursing assistant certified (NA-C).

The Department of Social and Health Services sets training and CE requirements for LTCWs while DOH maintains certification deadlines for LTCW. The Department of Social and Health Services continues rulemaking activity to establish permanent rules related to training and CE requirements.

What has changed:

The Department of Health filed [WSR 23-18-052](#) on August 30, 2023, extending certification deadlines for LTCW hired between 8/17/2019 and 1/31/2024, in new rule, WAC 246-980-011.

The deadline remains as August 31, 2023, for CE that was due while training waivers were in place, as well as for CE cycles between and including 10/28/2022 and 8/31/2023.

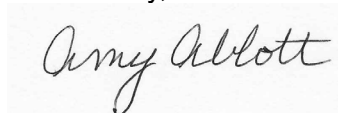
Long-term care workers must meet the certification and training deadlines in the table below to be in compliance with regulatory requirements and to be paid for providing care.

Worker hired or rehired during the time frame of:	Must complete basic training no later than:	Must be certified no later than:
8/17/2019 to 9/30/2020	1/31/2023	1/31/2024
10/1/2020 to 4/30/2021	4/30/2023	4/30/2024
5/1/2021 to 3/31/2022	7/31/2023	7/31/2024
4/1/2022 to 9/30/2022	10/31/2023	10/31/2024
10/1/2022 to 6/30/2023	11/30/2023	1/31/2025
7/1/2023 to 1/31/2024	Standard Training Requirements - 120 days from hire date	4/30/2025
Beginning 2/1/2024	Standard Training Requirements - 120 days from hire date	Standard certification requirements - 200 days from hire date

If you have training deadline questions, please contact David Chappell, HCS Policy Manager, David.Chappell@dshs.wa.gov.

If you have certification deadline questions, please contact Tracie Drake, DOH Health Services Consultant, Tracie.Drake@doh.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Amy Abbott, Director
 Residential Care Services

DSHS: “Transforming Lives”