



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Home and Community Living Administration  
P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

May 29, 2025

ALTSA: AFH #2025-020  
ALTSA: ALF #2025-017  
ALTSA: ESF #2025-014  
ALTSA: CCRSS #2025-011

**HOME CARE AIDE CERTIFICATION TIMELINE EXTENDED TO JULY 31, 2025**

Dear Administrator/Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the Department of Health (DOH) timeline extension for Home Care Aide certification.

DOH and the Home Care Aide program has extended the emergency rules regarding alternative certification timelines for individuals pursuing certification as home care aides, in response to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. DOH identified that long-term care workers continue to face challenges in obtaining certification. The extension is essential to protect public health and safety, as well as to support the long-term care workforce and help prevent staffing shortages.

**The certification deadline for workers hired between July 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024 has been extended from April 30, 2025 to July 31, 2025. All other certification deadlines remain unchanged.**

This emergency rule was originally established under Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1120, passed in 2021, which granted DOH the authority to provide additional time for long-term care workers to achieve certification. The rule was further extended under [WSR 25-10-015](#) on April 25, 2025, to apply to those hired within the specific time period.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact the Home Care Aide program at [homecareaide@doh.wa.gov](mailto:homecareaide@doh.wa.gov) or RCS Policy Unit at [RCSpolicy@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:RCSpolicy@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Abbott".

for

Amy Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Partnering with People"