



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

August 8, 2025

AFH #2025-035
ALF #2025-033
CCRSS #2025-018
ESF #2025-021

**HOME CARE AIDE CERTIFICATION TIMELINE EXTENDED TO 365 DAYS FROM
THE DATE OF HIRE**

Dear Administrator/Provider:

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) expects to adopt emergency rules to extend the certification deadline for long-term care workers applying for Home Care Aide certification, as authorized by [Senate Bill 5672](#) (2025 legislative session).

On [July 30, 2025](#), DOH announced that they plan to implement emergency rules to extend the certification deadline to **365 days from the date of hire** for those who are currently on a 200-day timeline requirement.

The emergency rules are expected to be retroactive to all home care aide applicants, allowing anyone who currently has a 200-day timeline to be extended to 365 days. This rule will expire December 31, 2027. A follow-up announcement with the exact date will be sent out once the emergency rules are filed with the Code Reviser's office. This change is intended to provide caregivers and employers with additional flexibility and support during the certification process and aligns with ongoing efforts to reduce barriers in the long-term care workforce.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact RCSpolicy@dshs.wa.gov for RCS rules, or homecareaide@doh.gov for DOH specific rules and timelines.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*

Attachments: [Senate Bill 5672](#), [Home Care Aide Workforce Announcement](#)