

# Home Care Aide Career Path

*More than just a job, this is a career with a purpose.*

The Washington health care industry is in need of people who can offer person-centered caregiving. This is a growing field with job opportunities throughout the state.



## Benefits of a career in long-term care

- Register to become a home care aide and receive training on the job. Providers can begin work and get paid while completing their training.
- Work in a variety of settings helping to support older adults, or children and adults with disabilities.
- Choose from flexible hours to suit a busy lifestyle.
- Build skills for other career opportunities in long-term care and elsewhere in the health care industry.
- Earn greater than minimum wage with employment benefits.



Washington State  
Department of Social  
& Health Services

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## Requirements

- Must be 18 years old
- Pass background checks
- Complete 75 hours of training within 120 days of hire date – training is free for some workers
- Pass a knowledge and performance exam for certification through the Department of Health
- Complete 12 hours of continuing education annually once certified

## Home care aide careers

*Those who become a partner in person-centered caregiving will receive the benefits and rewards of serving others as their career grows.*

### Choice of work environment

- **Assisted living facility:** a community setting where staff is responsible for the safety and well-being of residents. Housing, meals, laundry, supervision, and varying levels of assistance with care are provided. The home can have seven or more residents and is licensed by the state.
- **Adult family home:** a private home in a residential neighborhood where staff provide personal care services for residents. It is a welcoming and intimate environment accommodating two to six residents. Adult family homes are licensed by the state.
- **Client home:** assistance provided to an individual in their own home. This model allows the client to maintain a healthy, safe, and enriching lifestyle without having to relocate. Home care aides can work as individual providers who are registered through the Home Care Referral Registry or through a home care agency.

### Opportunities for career advancement

*Certified Nursing Assistant - Radiation Therapist - Surgical Technician - Physical Therapist - Registered Nurse*

## Become a home care aide

Visit the Department of Social and Health Services at:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/long-term-care-professionals-providers>



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DSHS 22-1733 (Rev. 8/18)

Washington State  
Aging and Long-Term  
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