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.
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