

Home Health Aide FAQs



What is a Home Health Aide?

A Home Health Aide (HHA) is to provide personal care in the home setting. Home Health Aides help elderly adults with “activities of daily living” (ADL’s) such as bathing, getting dressed, preparing meals, eating, mobility and hygiene needs. In New Jersey Home Health Aides are required to be certified. Home Health Aides assist in making sure clients are safe and have their personal needs met on a daily basis. Home Health Aides provide companionship, errand running, meal preparation and light housekeeping duties to those in need. You must be employed by an approved agency to be licensed.

How do I become a Home Health Aide?

Training requirements consist of 60 hours of class lecture and 16 hours of clinical training. Once training is complete, students will have the knowledge and skills required by the New Jersey Board of Nursing to become a Certified Home Health Aide. You will receive a certificate of completion once you have finished the course. You must apply to the Board of Nursing HHA within 6 months of completing the course and pass the required background checks to receive your state certification/license. *You cannot work as an HHA until you are licensed.*

I am a Certified Nurse's Aide can I become a Home Health Aide?

The CNA to CHHA conversion course consists of 10 hours of class lecture covering the required Home Care Module. **You must have an active NJ CNA license to take this class.** Once training is complete, students will have the knowledge required by the New Jersey State Board of Nursing to become a Certified Home Health Aide. Upon training completion, you will receive a certificate of completion. Once you have finished the course you must apply to the Board of Nursing, NJ Department of Consumer Affairs within 6 months of completing the course and pass the required background checks to receive your state certification/license. You cannot take the conversion course unless you are licensed in the State of New Jersey.

What are the requirements for a Home Health Aide?

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, U.S. citizens or qualified legal alien, and have the ability to read, write and speak English proficiently. You must be physically capable of participating in class work such as lifting, getting patients in and out of bed, giving bed baths, aiding clients with have limited mobility, and other patient related care. The NJ Board of Nursing requires that applicants be current on child support obligations, not be in default of student loans, not have been convicted on any "Disqualifying Crimes". All applicants will have to pass a criminal background check and be fingerprinted. You will be asked to bring all required documents to register for our training courses.

Required Documentation for Course Registration:

- Birth Certificate or United States Passport
- Social Security Card for Verification
- Non-US Citizens – Green Card/ Permanent Resident Card or Work Authorization
- Passport Photo – 2"x2" passport photo. This must be an official passport photo not a selfie.

Do I have to be employed to be licensed?

Yes. All HHA's certified through the NJ Board of Nursing **must** have a "promise of employment" from an accredited HHA agency in order to be licensed. In order to

maintain your certification, you will need to be employed and registered with an agency during your certification and at time of renewal. In NJ CHHAs may not work independently. They must be employed by a health care service firm and be under the supervision of an R.N.

What is the difference between a “Certified Nurses Aide” and a “Home Health Aide”?

A Certified Home Health Aide (CHHA) typically works in the homes of a patients and are typically responsible for basic healthcare tasks such as checking vital signs, medication reminders, assisting with personal hygiene and assisting with patient mobility in addition to these a CHHA assists with light housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation and errands. The job of a CHHA is to help the patient remain safe at home where they are most comfortable.

A certified nursing assistant (CNA) works in a wide variety of environments that can include assisted living centers, nursing homes, and hospitals. They perform many of the same duties as the CHHA. CNA's, unlike CHHAs, usually care for a several patients at a time instead of one. This care is performed in a medical facility.

Both must obtain a license from the state of New Jersey.

How do I sign up for the class?

Complete the application under the “*apply now*” tab. Once you have completed the application, please call us at 423-999-2778.