



Home Health Aide

Facts about HHAs & Job Opportunities

The outlook for Home Health Aides is excellent. With more people living longer, more Californians are living with disability and/or illness. Most people needing care would prefer being cared for in their home rather than a nursing home or hospital, leading to more jobs for Home Health Aides. In California, the number of Home Health Aides is expected to grow much faster than average growth rate for all occupations. Jobs for Home Health Aides are expected to increase by 43.6 percent, or 23,700 jobs between 2008 and 2018.

A high school diploma is not required to work as a Home Health Aide. In general, however, Home Health Aides must take classroom and clinical training approved by the Department of Health Services, Aide and Technician Certification Section (ATCS).



What Does an HHA Do?

Home Health Aides help elderly, convalescent, or disabled persons in their own homes instead of a health facility. Some help discharged hospital patients who have relatively short-term needs. They work for licensed home care agencies and provide basic nursing care in private homes or hospice programs under the supervision of Registered Nurses. Home Health Aides also work in patients' homes where other family members may live. They also work in hospice settings caring for patients who are dying.

Education, Training, and Other Requirements

In general, Home Health Aides must take classroom and clinical training. Course content includes basic nutrition, meal planning and cooking, home cleaning tasks, and ways for bathing, turning, and moving the patient. Home Health Aides also learn to deal with patients' emotional problems caused by illness or aging and learn something about behavior, particularly in elderly patients. Health care agencies that employ Home Health Aides must give them at least 12 hours of in-service training and do a performance review each year. Home Health Aides are required to renew their certification every two years

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