



# Explore a Career as a **NURSING ASSISTANT OR HOME HEALTH AIDE**

## Target Occupation Profile

### What do Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aides do?

Wherever there is a need for personal care, nursing assistants and home health aides are there helping patients of all ages. They perform the most basic daily tasks, such as taking vital signs on a regular basis, keeping patient areas safe and hygienic, and carrying out nurse and doctor orders for patient care, transport and activities of daily living. Working under a nurse's supervision, workers in these occupations have extensive daily contact with each patient, and therefore play a key role in their lives. They keep the nurse up to date on vital information about the patients' conditions. In nursing homes and residential care facilities, they are often the principal caregivers. They have more contact with residents than other members of the staff.

### Training & Educational Opportunities

Depending on the specific job title and duties, job candidates might be required to pass a state test and obtain certification through the Illinois Department of Public Health. Jobs in nursing assisting and home health will require coursework or completion of a recognized training program and may require certification from other credentialing organizations in those fields

### As a Nursing Assistant or Home Health Aide you will:

- Assist patient or resident with daily personal activity
- Measure patients' vital signs, such as blood pressure and temperature
- Prepare, update, and disseminate unit reports, physician orders and patient records
- Provide basic therapeutic services under direction of nursing staff
- Support the administrative and clinical operation of the practice
- Transport patients and provide assistance when moving patients

### Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aides are in demand in Cook County!

Cook County employment of nursing assistants and home health aides is expected to grow through the year 2020.

# Nursing Assistant or Home Health Aide

## Training Providers

There are many training providers available in Cook County to supply you with the training you need for a career as a nursing assistant or home health aide.

To access a list of training providers for this occupation and many more, please visit [Illinoisworknet.com](http://Illinoisworknet.com) and select the 'Training and Credentials' menu option to view 'WIOA Approved Training Programs.'



## Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire nursing assistants and home health aides in Cook County, including:

- Doctor offices
- Hospitals
- Laboratories
- Outpatient clinics
- Physical therapy clinics

## Wages & Openings

### Nursing Assistant and Home Health Aide Employment Data for Cook County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$9.43
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$12.73
Average Annual Job Openings Cook County	2,027
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	3,279

\*Source: Emsi, 2017.2

## Opportunities

After you receive your credentials and training as a nursing assistant or home health aide, you will have many opportunities for advancement including:

- Dialysis Patient Care Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Registered Nurse



Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership

[workforceboard.org](http://workforceboard.org)

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