

# CERTIFIED HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM

A SOLUTION FOR TEXAS FAMILIES



Texas Association for  
Home Care & Hospice  
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## THE NURSING SHORTAGE

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated a nationwide nursing shortage, impacting access to care for medically fragile children and their families. As demand for nurses continues to outpace supply, the ongoing needs of Texas children will no longer be able to be met at home, instead forcing them into hospitals for routine care and leaving parents without a choice but to leave the workforce.

***Texas families need creative solutions to ensure consistent care for their children without the emotional and financial toll of an unnecessary hospital stay.***

## WHY CHA?

Certified Health Aides (CHAs) are qualified individuals, including parents, guardians, or family members, who:

- Earn a health care certification
- Can be employed by a licensed agency to provide home care to an individual child enrolled in Medicaid, under the supervision of a registered nurse.

The CHA model helps ensure safe and continuous home care for vulnerable children, avoiding unnecessary hospital stays and resulting in cost-savings.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

This session, Texas lawmakers can create a CHA program, allowing trusted and willing adults to be trained as an alternative, in order to keep medically fragile children at home.

Tasks delegated to CHAs may include:

- G-Tube feeding
- Bathing and other personal care
- Blood pressure and vital signs
- Medication administration

States like Arizona and Colorado have passed CHA programs into law with great success, benefitting medically fragile children and their parents.

**ENSURE TEXAS FAMILIES CAN ACCESS THE CARE THEY NEED WITH A CHA PROGRAM**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **Is the industry seeking licensure or certification?**

Certification.

### **What tasks would the CHA provide?**

Tasks that are assessed by the RN as appropriate to be delegated under the current RN delegation rules at 22TAC, PT 11, Ch. 225.

### **How does supervision occur?**

In accordance with the RN delegation rules at 22TAC PT11, Ch. 225 and per agency policy.

### **How does this legislation help the nursing supply?**

It creates more specially trained caregivers to be part of the child's care team.

### **Is there a difference in training for certification for this CHA?**

Yes. Although there can be some core curriculum created for all Health Aides, the individual CHA would receive additional training specific to the child and the tasks they are expected to perform.

### **Are the RNs responsible for training? What will the training look like?**

Yes, the bill requires HHSC to develop a new discipline, training, certification, and registry for this program called the Certified Health Aide (CHA).

### **What are other states reporting to support best practices?**

Best practices would be guided by the requirements of the BONs existing nursing delegation rules. Unfortunately, other states have not shared their data, however, individual agency data does indicate the effectiveness of the program through decreases in hospitalization rates.

***To learn more or to connect with a member of our team, contact TAHC&H by emailing [governmentaffairs@tahch.org](mailto:governmentaffairs@tahch.org).***