

WAC 388-71-0971 Prior to hiring a long-term care worker, what training and certification requirements must be reviewed by the home care agency or department? Before hiring a long-term care worker, the home care agency or the department acting on behalf of the client, as defined under RCW 74.39A.009; or the consumer directed employer (CDE) under chapter 74.39A RCW; must review and verify the highest level of training or certification achieved by the individual.

(1) When the individual is a home care aide certified under chapter 18.88B RCW, the home care agency, CDE, or department must:

(a) Verify that the individual's home care aide certification is current and in good standing; and

(b) Confirm and document that the individual either holds current home care aide certification, or if not required to obtain certification, is in compliance with continuing education as required under WAC 388-71-0991 only for the compliance year in which they are hired.

(2) When the individual is exempt from the 70-hour home care aide training and certification requirements under WAC 388-71-0839, the home care agency, CDE, or department must review and verify the following:

(a) Documents demonstrating the individual's exemption status from training and certification which may include:

(i) Washington state provider active credential number, showing that the individual's license or certification is current and in good standing;

(ii) A letter from a former or current employer documenting work history during the exemption period described in WAC 388-71-0839;

(iii) Employment history records from the Washington state employment security department documenting work history information during the exemption period;

(iv) Federal tax statements documenting work history information during the exemption period; or

(v) Documentation showing completion of the basic training as required under WAC 388-71-0839;

(b) For the year in which they are hired, documentation of completion of 12 hours of continuing education, or information on when the continuing education must be completed, that complies with WAC 388-71-0991.

(3) Individuals who have worked as long-term care workers in the past, but who did not complete the basic training or certification required at the time, may be eligible to have the date of hire reset in accordance with this section and WAC 388-71-0980.

(a) Individuals who are eligible to reset their date of hire as provided in WAC 388-71-0980 must submit a new application and fee to the department of health and adhere to the training or certification requirement under this chapter.

(b) Individuals who are not eligible to reset the date of hire as provided in WAC 388-71-0980 must not be paid to provide personal care assistance until they complete required training and become certified as a long-term care worker.

(4) The home care agency, or the department acting on behalf of the client, as defined under RCW 74.39A.009; or the CDE under chapter 74.39A RCW must comply with continuing education documentation requirements under WAC 388-71-0970.

(a) Individuals are held accountable for continuing education completion by their new employer on the date of hire and shall provide at new hire, documentation of their continuing education compliance for the calendar year hired; or

(b) Individuals who work for multiple employers or move between employers shall on the date of hire, provide documentation of continuing education compliance for the calendar year in which they are hired, if hired after their birthdate.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.88B.010, 18.88B.041, 74.08.090, 74.39A.076, 74.39A.341, and chapter 18.80 RCW. WSR 25-07-033, s 388-71-0971, filed 3/11/25, effective 4/11/25. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.270, 70.128.230, 74.08.090, 74.39A.070, and 74.39A.074. WSR 23-01-022, § 388-71-0971, filed 12/9/22, effective 1/9/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.09.520, 43.43.832, 74.39A.270, 74.39A.056, 74.39A.074, 43.20A.710, 74.39A.525, 43.43.842, 74.39A.326, 74.39A.515, 74.39A.505, 18.88B.021, 43.43.837 and 2018 c 278. WSR 21-18-081, § 388-71-0971, filed 8/30/21, effective 10/1/21.]