



How to Choose the Right Pennsylvania Agency License

Home Care, Home Health, and Hospice are separate licensing paths. The right choice begins with the services, clients, staffing model, and payment plan for your agency.

Home Care Agency or Registry

Pennsylvania uses the Home Care Agency and Home Care Registry license for non-skilled services. These services may include personal care, assistance with daily activities, companionship, respite, and other approved home care support. Agency owners must also decide whether their operating model fits an agency, a registry, or both.

Home Health Agency

A Home Health Agency is designed for skilled care. Pennsylvania defines this type of agency around skilled nursing and at least one additional therapeutic service. State licensure and federal Medicare certification are separate approvals, so the agency's services and payment goals should be planned before applying.

Hospice Agency

Hospice is a separate license for agencies providing coordinated care focused on comfort and quality of life for people with terminal illness. Its clinical structure, staffing plan, policies, and services must be developed specifically for the hospice model.

Questions to consider

- Will the agency provide non-skilled support, skilled clinical care, hospice care, or a combination?
- Who are the clients you intend to serve?
- Which professionals will provide or supervise care?
- Will workers be employed by the agency or referred through a registry model?
- Will the agency accept private pay, government programs, insurance, or a combination?
- Do the policies and staffing plan match the selected license?

Choose before you build

Selecting a license because it appears easier or similar to another agency can create problems later. Your application, policies, staffing, and business plan should all describe the same type of agency.

Not sure which Pennsylvania license fits your agency?

NorthEnd Consulting helps prospective Pennsylvania agency owners evaluate their planned services and prepare application materials that align with the appropriate licensing path.

Visit northendconsultants.com to discuss your licensing plan

Licensing and certification decisions are controlled by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and other applicable agencies. NorthEnd Consulting does not guarantee approval or a specific regulatory outcome.