

Division of Specialized Care for Children

Certified Nursing Assistant Resources

This tip sheet aims to help guide parents and caregivers through the steps to become a certified nursing assistant (CNA). It links to several websites for your convenience and provides general guidelines. Please note information may change, so be sure to go directly to the Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) website to verify information remains accurate and up to date.



Basic Requirements for CNA certification in Illinois

You must:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Have a minimum of eight years of grade school

Education Requirements

Complete a basic nursing assistant training program (BNATP) in Illinois and pass a written exam.

- **Illinois CNA Programs:** This link provides a list of Illinois state-approved CNA programs.
 - a. This list has CNA programs through community colleges, hospitals, vocational schools and nursing agencies. This list may not be all-inclusive. We highly recommend contacting your local healthcare providers to research other options in your area.

OR

Other possible qualifications:

- You are a current nurse or have completed portions of a nursing program - **CNA requirements for current RN/LPN or RN/LPN students**
- You completed a U.S. military training program that included a nurse aide training program - **Military CNA training**
- You worked as a nurse in a foreign country - **CNA qualification through another country**
- You are a CNA in another state - **CNA transfer from another state**
- You previously certified as a CNA but haven't worked in 24 months - **CNA recertification**

Please see **IDPH's website** for more information.

Cost Considerations

There are several costs associated with becoming a CNA. These include:

- Program enrollment- out-of-pocket, employer-covered, grants and scholarships
- Uniforms
- Textbooks
- Class materials
- Travel to clinical sites
- Certification exam

Grants, scholarships and funding sources:

- Ask the CNA program about special workforce development funding options and contractual obligations.