

Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)

Career Comparisons

	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW)	Certified Nurses Assistant (CNA)
Position Summary	A Certified CHW is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. [1]	A CNA is a certified individual working under the direction of a nurse to provide basic patient care and services (such as bathing, feeding, or measuring vital signs of a patient). [5],[6]
Training and Prerequisites	- Completion of an approved training program for CHW Certification in South Dakota (200 hours of training and 40 hours of shadowing). - Obtain Certification as a Community Health Work or Community Health Representative in South Dakota. [2]	- At a minimum, CNAs need a high school or GRE diploma, and must complete training programs offered through vocational schools, community colleges, hospitals, high schools, or organizations like the Red Cross. [5] - Completion of required 75 hours of clinical and didactic trainings and subsequent testing as required by the SD Board of Nursing. [7] - The student will need to complete at least 16 hours of clinical practice. [8]
Certificate/ Licensure	CHWs and CHRs are certified through the Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota (CHWSD) on behalf of the South Dakota Department of Health and South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Medical Services. [2]	- CNAs are certified through the SD Board of Nursing. No license is required in SD. - Nurse Aide registration is a collaborative process between the South Dakota Department of Health (DOH), South Dakota Board of Nursing (BON), and the South Dakota Health Care Association (SDHCA). [8]
Typical Supervisors	CHWs are primarily supervised by a clinic manager, nursing manager, or other organizational manager.	SD Board of Nursing certification requires CNAs to be supervised by an RN or LPN. [7]
Median Hourly Wage (National) [3], [4]	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW) – \$24.54	Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) – \$18.96

Sources:

- [1] **American Public Health Association.** *Community Health Workers*. 2026. [Link](#)
 [2] **Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota.** *CHW and CHR Certification*. 2026. [Link](#)
 [3] **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.** *Community Health Workers*. August 2025. [Link](#)
 [4] **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.** *Nursing Assistants and Orderlies*. August 2025. [Link](#)
 [5] **NurseJournal.** *How to Get Your Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Certificate Online*. May 29, 2026. [Link](#)
 [6] **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.** *What Nursing Assistants and Orderlies Do*. August 2025. [Link](#)
 [7] **Nurse.org.** *How to Become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)*. August 2025. [Link](#)
 [8] **South Dakota Board of Nursing.** *Nursing Assistants*. May 2026. [Link](#)