

# Who is a Direct Care Worker?

**DCWs** play a **vital** role in enhancing the lives of individuals requiring **assistance** due to age, disability, or illness. Qualifications to become a direct care worker can widely vary based on the type of care required, But the only true requirement is to have **compassion and empathy**.

## DCWs can have:

- CNA certification
- High school diploma
- Bachelor's degree
- Knowledge of medical terminology
- Exceptional customer service
- No medical experience or skills



## DCWs do:

- Support recreation and leisure activities
- Prepare meals and snacks
- Administer medication(s)
- Coordinate care with others (social workers, physicians, family members, etc.)
- Monitor health status and vital signs
- Teaching skills to expand a person's independence
- Help with personal grooming and hygiene
- Assist in housekeeping and laundry



## DCWs' Career Path(s):

- Behavioral/Mental Health Care (counselors, therapists)
- Advocacy and Service Support (case management, benefits planning)
- Specialized Care (acupuncture, dental, occupational therapy)
- Higher Level Medical Care (medical assistant, respiratory therapist)
- Trade and Technical Care (pharmacy technician, IT technician)

**DCWs, providing support that improves lives.**

Learn more about DCW, its impacts, and how to become one.  
Visit [HCPF.Colorado.gov/Direct-Care-Spotlight](https://HCPF.Colorado.gov/Direct-Care-Spotlight)



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