

## 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
- Assisting with housekeeping and laundry

### DCWs' Career Path(s):

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

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)