NORTHEND

ARIZONA LICENSING INSIGHT

# How to Choose the Right Arizona Home Care Path

Arizona separates private-pay non-medical care, licensed clinical agencies, hospice operations, and public-program participation. The correct path begins with the services you will provide and how the agency plans to be paid.

## Private-Pay Non-Medical Home Care

A business limited to companionship, homemaker assistance, and non-medical personal support generally does not use the ADHS Home Health Agency license. Business registration, local requirements, employment obligations, worker preparation, and professional scope limits still apply. The service list should remain clearly non-medical.

## Home Health Agency

A Home Health Agency is licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services. This is the clinical pathway for an agency providing nursing and other home health services. The agency's scope, clinical leadership, staffing, policies, physical location, and readiness for inspection must align with the licensed model.

## Hospice

Arizona licenses hospice operations as a Hospice Service Agency or Hospice Inpatient Facility. Hospice is a coordinated end-of-life care model with its own leadership, interdisciplinary services, policies, and oversight. Medicare certification and state licensure should be planned as separate approvals.

## AHCCCS / ALTCS Provider Services

AHCCCS provider enrollment is separate from ADHS facility licensure. Arizona recognizes provider types such as attendant care and homemaker companies, and additional contracting or program requirements may apply before serving ALTCS members. Private-pay operations do not automatically create authority to bill AHCCCS.

## Questions to consider

- Will the agency provide only non-medical support, or will it offer nursing, therapy, or hospice services?
- Will clients pay privately, or will the agency seek AHCCCS, ALTCS, Medicare, or insurance reimbursement?
- Does the planned scope require licensed clinical leadership, professional staff, or physician-directed services?
- If hospice is planned, will the model operate in clients' homes or include an inpatient facility?
- Do your application, policies, staffing plan, contracts, location, and marketing describe the same model?

## One Arizona distinction

ADHS licensure and AHCCCS enrollment answer different questions. A state health-care institution license authorizes a regulated operating model; AHCCCS enrollment addresses participation as a Medicaid provider. An agency may need one, both, or neither, depending on its services and payer plan.

## Choose the pathway first

Do not select a model because its name sounds familiar or because another agency uses it. Define the services, clients, payment sources, workforce, and location first - then build the agency around the path that actually applies.


**Not sure which Arizona path fits your agency?**

NorthEnd Consulting helps prospective Arizona agency owners clarify planned services and identify the licensing, enrollment, and approval path that may apply.

**Visit northendconsultants.com to discuss your agency plan**



Licensing, certification, enrollment, and payer decisions are controlled by ADHS, AHCCCS, CMS, health plans, and other applicable authorities. This is a general planning resource; requirements depend on the proposed services and operating model. NorthEnd Consulting does not guarantee approval.