



How to Choose the Right Florida Agency Path

Florida separates homemaker and companion services, caregiver referral businesses, home health services, and hospice into distinct regulatory paths. The right choice depends on the services, workforce model, clinical structure, and payment plan.

Homemaker & Companion Services Registration

This AHCA registration fits an organization limited to homemaker and companion services such as housekeeping, cooking, errands, and companionship. It does not authorize hands-on personal care or nursing. An agency planning to assist with bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting, or other personal care should evaluate a different path.

Nurse Registry

A Nurse Registry is a licensed referral model. It offers contracts to nurses, home health aides, certified nursing assistants, homemakers, and companions for work in private homes or temporary facility staffing. The referred caregivers are independent contractors rather than registry employees.

Florida law limits a registry's role: it may not monitor, supervise, manage, or train the caregivers it refers. Owners should not select this model simply because they prefer independent contractors; the entire operating structure must fit the registry requirements.

Home Health Agency (HHA)

A Florida HHA may provide skilled services through nurses, therapists, and social workers and/or unskilled services through home health aides, CNAs, homemakers, and companions. The selected services affect staffing, policies, surveys, and clinical oversight. State licensure does not automatically include Medicare or Medicaid participation.

Hospice

Hospice is a separate coordinated end-of-life care model with its own leadership, interdisciplinary services, policies, emergency planning, and licensing requirements. Florida requires Certificate of Need approval before an applicant may proceed with hospice licensure.

Questions to consider

- Will the agency offer companionship only, hands-on personal care, skilled services, or hospice care?
- Will caregivers be agency employees or independent contractors referred through a registry?
- Does the operating model require supervision and training of caregivers?
- Will the HHA provide unskilled services, skilled services, or both?
- Will the agency pursue private pay, Medicare, Medicaid, managed care, or another payer?
- If hospice is planned, has Certificate of Need review been addressed first?

One Florida distinction

A Homemaker and Companion Services registration is not a personal care license. A Nurse Registry is not an employer-based home care agency. A Home Health Agency may provide unskilled and/or skilled services. These paths may involve some of the same caregiver titles, but their authority and operating responsibilities are different.

Do not choose by price alone

A less expensive or simpler registration may not authorize the services in the business plan. Define the services and workforce model first, then build the application, policies, staffing, and marketing around the path that actually applies.

Separate approvals still matter

AHCA licensure or registration, Certificate of Need, Medicare or Medicaid enrollment, accreditation, and payer contracting are separate processes. Completing one does not automatically complete the others.

Not sure which Florida path fits your agency?

NorthEnd Consulting helps Florida agency owners clarify their services and workforce model before preparing for the licensing or registration path that applies.

Visit northendconsultants.com to discuss your licensing plan

Current as of October 2026. Licensing, registration, Certificate of Need, certification, and enrollment decisions are controlled by applicable authorities. This is a general planning resource; requirements may change and depend on the proposed services. NorthEnd Consulting does not guarantee approval.