



How to Choose the Right Idaho Agency Path

Idaho's path depends on what the agency will do and who will pay. Private-pay nonmedical care, Medicaid personal assistance, skilled home health, and hospice should not be treated as interchangeable business models.

Private-Pay Nonmedical Services

A private-pay business offering companionship, homemaker support, errands, or limited personal assistance should first define every task it plans to perform. Idaho does not present the Medicaid Personal Assistance Agency pathway as a general license for every private-pay home care business. Confirm whether the proposed tasks trigger another regulated category, professional license, or local requirement before serving clients.

Even when a separate healthcare license is not required for the chosen model, the agency still needs proper business formation, employment practices, service agreements, personnel files, policies, documentation, insurance, and a clear scope of service.

Personal Assistance Agency (PAA)

The PAA route is connected to Idaho Medicaid State Plan Personal Care Services and Aged and Disabled Waiver services. These programs may include bathing, dressing, toileting, food and nutrition, incidental housekeeping, attendant care, chore, companion, homemaker, respite, and other authorized supports.

A prospective PAA completes the HCBS Provider Toolkit as part of Medicaid provider enrollment. New providers must complete Quality Assurance training before application approval and before providing covered services. Provider agreements, direct-care training, background checks, and ongoing oversight requirements also apply.

Home Health Agency (HHA)

An Idaho HHA provides skilled nursing and at least one additional therapeutic service, such as physical therapy, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, medical social services, or home health aide services. This is a clinical model, not simply a higher level of nonmedical home care.

Effective July 1, 2025, Medicare-certified HHAs are no longer required to hold an Idaho state license, and Idaho states that no new HHA licenses will be issued. The CMS certification process, surveys, and separate Medicare or Medicaid enrollment requirements still matter.

Hospice

Hospice is a separate palliative-care model for people with terminal illness. It addresses physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs through an interdisciplinary program. Medicare certification, Medicaid provider requirements, surveys, and federal hospice standards may apply. A hospice house has an additional Idaho application and location-specific process.

Questions to consider

- Will the agency provide companionship, homemaker help, hands-on personal care, skilled clinical services, or hospice care?
- Will services be private pay, Idaho Medicaid State Plan PCS, an A&D; Waiver service, Medicare, or another payer?
- Will the planned tasks require licensed clinicians, trained direct-care staff, or both?
- Does the agency need Medicaid enrollment, CMS certification, a provider agreement, or more than one approval?
- Do the policies, staffing, office, client documents, and marketing match the selected path?

One important Idaho distinction

A Personal Assistance Agency is not simply another name for any private-pay home care company. Idaho uses the PAA framework for Medicaid personal care and waiver providers. Likewise, the end of new HHA state licenses did not eliminate federal certification or payer enrollment requirements.

No license does not mean no rules

A business can still be responsible for business registration, employment law, professional scope-of-practice limits, background screening, training, privacy, safety, documentation, taxes, local approvals, contracts, and payer rules. The correct checklist depends on the exact service and payment model.

Separate approvals still matter

Business formation, Medicaid enrollment, a provider agreement, CMS certification, accreditation, and payer contracting are separate steps. Completing one does not automatically complete the others.

Not sure which Idaho path fits your agency?

NorthEnd Consulting helps Idaho agency owners define their services and payment model before preparing for the enrollment, certification, or compliance path that applies.

Visit northendconsultants.com to discuss your agency plan

Current as of October 2026. Licensing, certification, enrollment, provider agreement, survey, and payer 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.