NORTHEND

ILLINOIS LICENSING INSIGHT

How to Choose the Right Illinois Agency License

Illinois Part 245 includes five distinct paths for home-based services. The right choice depends on what you will provide and whether your agency will deliver and manage care or only place workers with clients.

Home Services Agency

Provides non-medical services directly through agency workers. This may include assistance with activities of daily living, housekeeping, personal laundry, meal preparation, errands, and companionship. It does not authorize skilled nursing or other medical services.

Home Nursing Agency

Provides skilled nursing and home health aide services directly. The clinical model may include licensed nurses working on shift, full-time, part-time, one-time, or intermittent schedules, with the agency responsible for service oversight and applicable supervision.

Home Health Agency

Provides skilled nursing and at least one additional home health service, such as therapy, medical social services, or home health aide services. This is a broader clinical model. Illinois licensure and federal Medicare certification are separate considerations.

Home Services Placement Agency

Places a home services worker for private hire by the client. After placement, the worker is the client's employee and the agency does not provide ongoing service management or control the worker's duties. This path also requires Illinois Department of Labor licensure as a Private Employment Agency.

Home Nursing Placement Agency

Places nurses to perform physician-ordered services in a client's residence without directing, controlling, or supervising the nurse's skilled services after placement. The placement relationship is different from operating a home nursing agency.

Questions to consider

- Will you provide non-medical support, skilled nursing, therapy, or a combination of services?
- Will the agency employ, direct, and supervise workers - or only match workers with clients?
- Will your care model require physician orders, clinical oversight, or home health aide services?
- Will Medicare certification or another payer program be part of your business plan?
- Do your application, policies, staffing plan, agreements, and marketing describe the same model?

One Illinois distinction

A placement license is not simply a lighter version of a direct-service license. The client's employment relationship, the agency's level of control, ongoing service management, and fee structure are central to the distinction.

Plan before you apply

IDPH permits an agency to apply for more than one license, but each license requires its own application and non-refundable fee. Choose each path intentionally and build the operating model around it from the beginning.

Not sure which Illinois path fits your agency?

NorthEnd Consulting helps prospective Illinois agency owners clarify planned services and prepare application materials aligned with the appropriate Part 245 licensing path.

Visit northendconsultants.com to discuss your licensing plan

Licensing and certification decisions are controlled by the Illinois Department of Public Health and other applicable authorities. This is a general planning resource; requirements depend on an agency's proposed services and operating model. NorthEnd Consulting does not guarantee approval.