



How to Choose the Right Michigan Agency Path

Michigan's requirements depend on what the agency will do and who will pay. Private-pay nonmedical care, Medicaid Home Help, skilled home health, and hospice follow different regulatory and enrollment paths.

Private-Pay Nonmedical Home Care

Michigan does not publish a stand-alone statewide home care agency license for a private-pay business limited to companionship, homemaker support, errands, and nonclinical personal assistance. That does not mean the agency operates without requirements.

The business should still address formation and tax registration, employment and wage rules, insurance, screening, training, service agreements, care documentation, privacy, incidents, complaints, emergencies, and local requirements. Define every planned task before deciding that the model is nonmedical.

MDHHS Home Help Agency

Michigan's Medicaid Home Help program pays for personal care that supports activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living. An agency provider is generally an organization or employer of two or more individual providers.

An agency must be approved by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services before billing Home Help at the agency rate. The pathway includes business registration, an EIN and NPI, SIGMA and MiLogin access, CHAMPS enrollment, required documentation, and electronic visit verification. CHAMPS enrollment must be complete before serving Home Help beneficiaries.

Home Health Agency (HHA)

A home health agency provides skilled nursing and may provide therapy and home health aide services. Michigan states that a state HHA license is not required. Federal certification is voluntary for agencies that do not seek Medicare or Medicaid HHA participation, but certification and payer enrollment are separate requirements when the agency plans to bill those programs.

For Michigan Medicaid, Home Health is the clinical benefit; personal care is handled through Home Help. Do not use one pathway as a substitute for the other.

Hospice Agency or Residence

Hospice agencies and hospice residences must be licensed by Michigan before operating. A state license is also required before Medicare certification can be approved. Medicare certification, accreditation, Medicaid enrollment, and payer contracting remain separate from the state license.

Questions to consider

- Will the agency provide companionship and homemaker help, hands-on personal care, skilled clinical services, or hospice care?
- Will clients pay privately, or will the agency seek Michigan Medicaid, Medicare, managed-care, or other payer reimbursement?
- Does the plan require MDHHS Home Help approval, federal HHA certification, a Michigan hospice license, or more than one approval?
- Are staffing, supervision, training, records, office systems, and policies designed for the chosen service model?

One important Michigan distinction

A private-pay nonmedical agency is not automatically a Home Help agency. A Home Help approval is not a home health certification. And Michigan's lack of a state HHA license does not eliminate federal certification, Medicaid enrollment, accreditation, or payer requirements.

Federal survey planning

Agencies pursuing Medicare certification should plan the survey route early. Michigan warns that lower-priority initial federal certification surveys may be delayed while the state completes higher-priority work. A deemed-status accreditation route may be worth evaluating, but accreditation does not replace every state, enrollment, or payer requirement.

Readiness matters

For a non-deemed initial federal survey, Michigan requires an HHA to be operational and to have served at least 10 skilled patients, with at least seven active at the time of survey. A hospice must have served at least five hospice patients, with at least three active, and have all required services operational. Confirm current instructions before declaring readiness.

Build the agency in the right order

Choose the services and payer first. Then confirm the correct approval path before committing to a name, office, policies, staffing plan, marketing, or client admissions. Building from the wrong category can create expensive rework.

Planning a Michigan agency?

NorthEnd Consulting helps owners define their services, identify the appropriate pathway, and prepare the policies, documentation, and operational structure that match their agency plan.

Visit northendconsultants.com to discuss your agency plan

Current as of October 2026. Requirements, forms, fees, survey priorities, and program instructions may change. Licensing, certification, enrollment, accreditation, and payer contracting are separate decisions controlled by the applicable authorities. This is a general planning resource. NorthEnd Consulting does not guarantee approval.