

PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGING

LONG-TERM CARE COUNCIL



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Definition of “Direct Care Workers”

For the purposes of the work of the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council and its committees, “direct care workers” refer to paid frontline workers who provide hands-on care, services, and support to the elderly and individuals with disabilities across the long-term services and supports continuum, from home and community-based settings to skilled nursing facilities. There are a variety of job titles that currently refer to these workers including, but not limited to, attendants, assisted living aides, home health and home care aides (workers), nurse aides, nursing assistants, personal care aides, and program assistants. Direct care workers also include those employed under the consumer-directed model.