

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
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Lt. Governor

HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2020-106

TO: Nursing Homes

FROM: Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA
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Donna Ortelle, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section

DATE: November 13, 2020

SUBJECT: **Nursing Home Enrollment in the Connect to Care Jobs Portal**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an immense and immediate impact across all workforce sectors in Connecticut and across the United States. Our already strained health care system continues to face workforce shortages exacerbated by the demands and complexities of this virus. Recognizing our long-term care facilities are in particular need of short term and long term staffing for some of our most vulnerable populations, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order 7SS creating a new healthcare worker classification, the Temporary Nurse Aide, to provide limited nursing or nursing related services to residents of nursing homes. Since that time, over 300 individuals have met the qualifications and registered to provide services as Temporary Nurse Aides.

To help nursing homes recruit Temporary Nurse Aides and other classifications of healthcare workers, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is introducing facilities to a new job portal service designed to match nursing homes and other long-term care facilities with qualified job seekers. This service is offered at no cost to the nursing homes (i.e. the potential employers) and job seekers.



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What is Connect to Care Jobs? ConnectToCareJobs.com is a job matching site that allows nursing homes, assisted living facilities, residential care facilities, and long-term acute care hospitals to identify specific staffing needs. Individuals who are licensed and/or trained for the various roles in these facilities can register their availability and willingness to fill shifts. An algorithm then matches the workers and the facilities in real time.

ConnectToCareJobs.com is a special project of ADvancing States. The tool was built by ADvancing States, with the support of Centene Corporation, to help solve workforce crisis staffing needs in a timely fashion. Signing up is simple and fast for both facilities and individuals alike.

How do nursing homes sign up to use the portal? DPH has uploaded all nursing home facilities to the ConnectToCareJobs portal. Facilities will be receiving an email welcoming them to the ConnectToCareJobs portal. The email will include instructions to register as an employer in the portal. If you have not received the email welcoming you to the program, please check your spam email. If you do not receive a welcome email, **please check that your facility's contact information on file with DPH, including email address, is up to date.** *ConnectToCareJobs portal is not compatible with Internet Explorer, we suggest using Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge.*

If you want to add a user, please visit <https://dph-cthelpdesk.ct.gov/Ticket>, select the ConnectToCare option, and submit your request. The request will be processed by DPH, and the new user will be added to the ConnectToCareJobs portal by DPH. That additional user will receive the same welcome notice and be prompted with registering instructions.

How much does this service cost? There is no cost either to the facilities or job seekers to use the Connect to Care Jobs portal.

What kind of workers will be available through the portal? www.ConnectToCareJobs.com appeals to a broad range of workers and positions. However, during the initial roll-out of the portal, DPH will be directly inviting the 300+ individuals who have successfully completed training and registered as Temporary Nurse Aides.

Over the next few weeks, DPH will be working with industry leaders, the Connecticut Department of Labor, unions, and local workforce boards to recruit to the portal other potential job seekers, including, but not limited to:

- Certified Nursing Assistants
- Registered Nurses
- Registered Nurses
- Licensed Vocational Nurses
- Social Workers
- Activity Aides
- Speech Therapists
- Cooks
- Environmental Service Aides

Is this service available only to nursing homes or will other healthcare entities be able to register? DPH is introducing this service first to nursing homes. Over the next few weeks, we will expand registration to include other long-term care facilities, such as assisted living and residential care homes.

Questions? For any questions please submit a ticket to DPH at <https://dph-cthelpdesk.ct.gov/Ticket> and one of our DPH staff will assist you.