



Is Caring Your Calling?

How to become an in-home care provider



THE CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In Santa Cruz County, there are more than 2,400 individuals who need in-home care. Care providers can start earning a wage immediately with no prior training, while helping others.

**Read on to find out if
this is the job for you!**



Start a Rewarding Career Today!

Are you looking for a job that lets you make a difference in the everyday lives of others? Throughout Santa Cruz County, there are thousands of older adults and adults and children with disabilities who need help with daily chores and personal care. Care providers help these individuals continue to live healthy, meaningful and independent lives. The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Public

Authority, part of the County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department, maintains a registry of providers and refers them to clients in need. If you enjoy helping people, want a job with flexible hours, or want to take the first steps toward a career in health care, consider becoming an IHSS Public Authority registry care provider.



HELP PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL CARE NEEDS

Help clients with special care needs remain as independent as possible by performing tasks they aren't able to do themselves, including:

- General housework like cooking, cleaning, laundry and grocery shopping
- Personal care such as dressing, bathing and feeding
- Paramedical services such as administering medications, giving injections or wound care (with appropriate training)



FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES AND LOCATIONS

Flexible and negotiable schedules are ideal for students, parents of school-aged children and people looking for additional income.

- Work anywhere from 1 to 40 hours a week (25 hours a week is average), with potential opportunities for overtime pay
- Work for multiple clients to build the hours and schedule you want
- Choose the areas within the county you are available to work
- Not required to have your own car



NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

If you're willing to learn, training is available! Experience as a care provider can put you on the path toward a career in health care.

- No certifications or training required to start
- Receive on-the-job training
- Get paid to learn
- Six free training classes a year

Visit www.santacruzinhomework.org to apply for a job as an in-home care provider today!

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

Think you might be a good fit for a care provider position? In-home care can be a meaningful and rewarding career for someone who is good with people and has a caring, compassionate personality.

Traits of a successful care provider include:



Flexibility

Reliability

Patience

Responsiveness to client's emotional and physical needs

Good communicator

Ability to interact with different types of personalities

Problem-solver

A good sense of humor



Amanda Reeder (right) has been a care provider for Foster Andersen (left), who is quadriplegic, for nearly a decade. They both feel that their relationship has enhanced their lives.

PHOTO BY NIC COURTY

“

She increases my quality of life tenfold, because she's there for me.

Foster Andersen
In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority
care recipient

”

Better Together

Care provider and recipient both value their connection

by Kate Gonzales

Foster Andersen is a man who accomplishes big things.

After he was paralyzed in a motorcycle accident at age 17, he still graduated from high school on schedule. He organizes music festivals that have brought thousands of people together over the years. He founded and runs Shared Adventures, a nonprofit that enriches the lives of people with special needs through recreational outings.

It's the little things he needs extra help with, and that's where Amanda Reeder comes in.

For nearly a decade, Reeder has worked as a care provider for Andersen, who is quadriplegic and has limited use of his arms. Andersen relies on Reeder and a team of other caregivers to address his daily needs, but he values self-reliance.

“I really love to be as independent as possible, even though I'm very dependent on people,” he says.

In-home care helps Andersen continue to live independently in his own home. Four evenings a week, Reeder helps keep his house tidy, does his laundry, takes him to the farmers' market, cooks his dinners and helps him into bed.

“I call her my hands and legs,” he says. “She does what I can't do.”

Santa Cruz County's In-Home Supportive

Services Public Authority pays Reeder's wages for the household and personal care tasks she performs for Andersen. Through all the daily activities and life events they've shared, Andersen says she has become like family.

“I can't have kids,” he says, “but I feel like she's my kid in a way.”

Reeder says the relationship is mutually beneficial. She values the flexibility she has to adjust her schedule. She was able work evenings so she could attend classes at Cabrillo College, and earned her phlebotomy license in February 2015. She was able to take time off when her baby was born in 2015. And when she moved out of the area and later returned, Andersen welcomed her back.

“He's always held a job for me, which is cool and not really common,” she says.

She says it's incredibly gratifying to make such a huge impact through simple tasks like cleaning and cooking. She adds that she is inspired each day by Andersen's infectious optimism.

“He's always positive and it rubs off on me,” Reeder says.

Andersen agrees that his life is richer with Reeder. She is a consistent, quality care provider whom he trusts to do her job well.

“She increases my life tenfold, because she's there for me,” Foster says.

SUPPORTING CAREGIVER SUCCESS

As an IHSS Public Authority registry care provider, you won't be alone. You will receive the on-the-job support and guidance needed to be a successful worker and advance your career in this important line of work.

Here is what you can expect as an IHSS Public Authority Registry care provider:



Income:
Earn \$11.90 an hour

Extras:
Potential overtime and travel pay

Benefits:
Dental and vision

Support:
IHSS social workers will help facilitate communication so you can build a positive relationship with your care recipient.

Make Caring for Others Your Mission

If you're looking to start a career helping others, submit an application to the Santa Cruz County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Public Authority registry today! Flexible hours and on-the-job training make it a good job for students, parents of school-aged children, and anyone looking for part-time or full-time work with no prior training.



HOW TO GET STARTED

Take the following steps to become an IHSS Public Authority registry care provider:

1 Apply

- Visit www.santacruzinhomework.org.
- Fill out the provider information section and watch the orientation video.
- Make an appointment to come into an IHSS Public Authority office where staff can go over your required forms. Be sure to bring both your original Social Security card and a valid driver's license or photo ID.

2 Fingerprinting

- IHSS Public Authority staff will provide you with the required forms and a list of locations to get fingerprinted.
- Fees for fingerprinting vary. If you receive CalWorks or are in a training program, you may receive help to cover the cost.

3 Orientation

- Learn about provider rules and regulations and the resources available to you through the IHSS Public Authority.

4 Register

- Complete a registry application and interview with an IHSS Public Authority social worker. Once you're approved, your name and phone number will be given to clients looking for a service provider.

5 Interview

- Clients will contact you to schedule an interview.
- Follow up quickly and come prepared with references for the best chance of success.

6 Start work!

FREE CLASSES HELP CARE PROVIDERS

As a care provider with the IHSS Public Authority registry, you're not alone. Whether you are a new caregiver or a seasoned provider interested in improving your skills, the IHSS Public Authority registry trainings offer the opportunity to expand your knowledge in the industry.

Class topics include:

- Personal care
- Medication management
- Understanding and managing dementia
- Mobility and safe transfers
- Nutrition
- Keeping the care receiver at home

These free classes are held six times a year. Sign up for a class or the series today!

For an up-to-date schedule of classes, visit www.delmarcaregiver.org/ihss-training.html or call 831-454-4036.

Contact the IHSS Public Authority today!



Call
831-454-4036



Visit the website at
www.santacruzinhomework.org



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