

FINDING

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Work in ...

HEALTH CARE AIDE

QUICK FACTS

- Providing personal care to clients of continuing care and home care.
- Help familiarize and train new staff.
- Record keeping, updating care plans and flow sheets.
- General cleaning.
- Frequent heavy lifting.
- Standing for long periods of time.
- Flexible work schedules that include shift work, evenings, nights, weekends and holidays.
- Providing personal care to clients in their homes.
- Paid mileage and benefit packages may be available.
- Employers usually provide on-the-job training.
- Light housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation, and shopping may be required for the client.
- Providing transportation and social outings for the clients.
- Light to heavy lifting.
- Standing for long periods of time.
- Flexible work schedules include shift work, evenings, nights, weekends and holidays. Occasionally overtime is required.
- The average wage range for a Health Care Aide in Southeastern Alberta is \$9.00 to \$16.41 per hour.
- For additional information, visit www.alis.gov.ab.ca (NOC# 3413, 6471.1).

NATURE OF WORK

- Helping clients with daily living, including but not limited to:
 - Personal cleanliness.
 - Dressing.
 - Transfers.
 - Assisting in the bathroom.
 - Assisting with mobility.
 - Specialized treatments as required.
 - Assisting with medications.
 - Assisting with compression stockings.
- Watching, reporting, and writing down the changing needs of the client.
- Sharing observations of needs, problems and changing conditions of the clients.
- Keeping the supervisor and other staff informed.
- Organizing client caseloads on a daily basis.
- Being a supporter for the clients.
- Keeping a safe and clean setting for the clients.
- Adjusting routines for changing client needs.
- Keeping all information private and confidential.
- Following the policies and procedures established by the employer or organization.



WHAT EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR

- Grade 12 Diploma or Canadian equivalent is preferred.
- Health Care Aide certificate or equivalent.
- First Aid and CPR Level C may be required.
- A recent criminal record check/police information check prior to the first date of hire.
- Experience working with seniors in a similar setting is an asset.

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- Value all clients in their environment.
- Ability to cope with stress.
- Ability to work alone, within a team and/or under supervision.
- Ability to get along well with a wide variety of people.
- Computer skills may be required.
- Good communication skills.
- Getting all up-to-date immunizations within the first ninety days of employment.

RELATED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- On-the-job training is provided.
- Education and specialized training for a Health Care Aide is available through the Medicine Hat College (www.mhc.ab.ca) and the Academy of Learning.
- Lift and transfer courses required.
- Annual certification in Basic Heimlich Maneuver may be required.
- Yearly in-service attendance for Fire, Disaster Plan, Lift and Transfer, WHMIS.
- In order to advance in this occupation, additional education is required.

- Health Care Aides have the opportunity to continue their education to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).
- All health care aides must be provincially certified by 2008.
- Visit the **Corporate Education Network** for additional training opportunities specifically in Southeast Alberta (www.cenetwork.ca)

HOW TO APPLY

- Hiring procedures vary depending on the employer.
- Generally, job seekers are to submit a resume or complete a company application form.
- Apply in person, by mail or by fax directly to the company office.
- Applying in person is preferred.
- In some cases, a company application form may be available on-line at the company website. A individual interview may follow.
- Check www.jobbank.gc.ca for current job listings in Southeast Alberta.

POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

- Chinook Village (www.chinookvillage.com)
- Palliser Health Region (www.palliserhealth.ca)
 - Big Country Hospital, Continuing Care, Oyen
 - Bow Island Health Centre, Continuing Care
 - Brooks Health Centre, Continuing Care
 - Club Sierra, Medicine Hat
 - Good Samaritan, South Ridge Village, Medicine Hat
 - Home Care Program
 - Leisure Way, Community Group Home, Medicine Hat
 - Orchard Manor, Brooks
 - Riverview Care Centre, Medicine Hat
 - Sunnyside Care Centre, Medicine Hat
 - The Valleyview, Medicine Hat
- REDI Enterprises, Medicine Hat (www.redi.ca)
- Victorian Order of Nurses, VON Alberta South (www.von.ca)
- We Care Home Health Care (www.wecare.ca)