

The following states recognize ACHCA's CNHA program which can "fast track" administrator eligibility for licensure in that state:

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Nevada
- New York
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Washington
- West Virginia

"ACHCA certification means credibility. When I see the CNHA designation, I see a professional who has taken the next step in demonstrating their desire for professional development and commitment to our profession. I look forward to correlating future positive outcomes in our client centers who are led by these certified professionals."

**Diana Wilks, CNHA, FACHCA, President  
Ethica Health and Retirement Communities**

## Contact Us

American College of Health Care Administrators  
(ACHCA)  
1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 450  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-536-5120  
[professionaladvancement@achca.org](mailto:professionaladvancement@achca.org)  
<https://achca.org/certification>



# ACHCA Certifications

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*Demonstrate the knowledge,  
skills, and values consistent  
with the high standards of  
management necessary to  
provide quality care to residents,  
families, and communities:  
pursue Certification.*



## The Pursuit of Excellence

Professional development is a journey. Demonstrating your leadership abilities, technical knowledge and expertise, are key elements to arriving at your destination. Earning one or two of the professional long-term and continuing care certifications offered by ACHCA is a critical step toward demonstrating your knowledge of and strong commitment to the practice of long-term care.

## The pathway to become ACHCA professionally certified starts here!

ACHCA certified administrators have demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and values consistent with the high standards of management necessary to provide quality care to residents, families, and communities.

## CNHA: Nursing home administrator certification

ACHCA has been certifying nursing home administrators since 1978. The CNHA exam is based on the exam blueprint developed by Subject Matter Experts based on the Nursing Home Administrator job analysis.

## CALA: Assisted living administrator certification

The ACHCA Professional Certification process provides a national standard for assisted living administration. The CALA exam is constructed on the exam blueprint developed by Subject Matter experts based on the assisted living administrator job analysis and serves as a model for advanced practice in assisted living administration.

## Eligibility requirements

All eligibility criteria are detailed on page 9 of the [Professional Certification Handbook](#).



## Why Become Certified?

There are many reasons to earn an official ACHCA certification. Earning your certification is like having a key to the vast world of opportunities the profession of long-term care offers. It can open doors you did not even know existed, as the four letters that now follow your name will make one powerful statement about the expertise you bring to the table. Ultimately, becoming certified will:

- Provide you with national recognition
- Eligibility for State licensure in several states
- Commitment to the public
- Enhancement of the profession
- Personal satisfaction and sense of achievement
- Employer recognition
- ACHCA recognition

Wherever your journey takes you, these certifications will strengthen your knowledge base, deepen your competencies, and distinguish you among your peers.

[professionaladvancement@achca.org](mailto:professionaladvancement@achca.org)  
<https://achca.org/certification>