California Home Care Organization Licensing Consulting

Last reviewed October 2026 · https://www.integralhs.com/california-home-care-organization-licensing

What to have ready

Each item ties to HSC Chapter 13 as displayed October 2, 2026, or to CDSS's application pages.

- Form HCS 281, the application instructions; CDSS's first step is “Review the HCS 281 for application instructions” (CDSS application process [https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/community-care/home-care-services/home-care-org-application-process]).
- The Section A application forms: HCS 200, 215, 308, 309, 402 and 9165.
- The supplemental documents CDSS asks you to “compile” with the forms (same page). The page's Section B lists: B1 partnership agreement, articles of incorporation or articles of organization; B2 job descriptions for each position; B3 personnel policies; B4 training plan; B5 home care organization program description; B6 insurance information. Section A also includes HCS 402 (Employee Dishonesty Bond) and HCS 9165 (Board of Directors Statement).
- Your legal entity and ownership records, matched to the entity types in the HCO definition (HSC 1796.12 [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&sectionNum=1796.12]).
- A written description of the nonmedical services you will arrange and the clients you will serve, tied to the statute's definition of home care services.
- Acceptable identification for the people who will initiate the background examination; HSC 1796.32 [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&sectionNum=1796.32] lists identification cards with which an applicant “may initiate a background examination to be a licensed home care organization.”
- A roster of caregivers and their registry status, since home care services are provided by a registered home care aide (HSC 1796.12).
- A tracking method for aide registry renewals; HSC 1796.31 [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&sectionNum=1796.31] states that a registered aide “shall renew his or her registration every two years.”
- A budget line for the CDSS license fee (see the cost section).