

## The Process for Establishing a Home Health Agency (HHA)

Consistent with the HHA Chapter's regulations regarding determination of need for additional HHAs (COMAR 10.24.16.04), MHCC staff monitors for each county/jurisdiction whether it has sufficient consumer choice of HHAs, a competitive market, and sufficient choice of HHAs with high-quality performance. Staff conduct such reviews at the time the most recent HHA utilization data becomes available, based on the submission of data from all Maryland HHAs on the MHCC HHA Annual Survey. In addition, MHCC staff monitor CMS's HHA quality metrics and performance scores based on the most recent CMS data available.

As required by the HHA Chapter regulations (COMAR 10.24.16.07), when one or more jurisdictions have been identified for additional HHA services (consistent with the need determination regulations), MHCC staff publishes in a public notice draft quality measures and required performance levels for those quality measures that must be achieved by an applicant to be considered in the review cycle. The Commission considers the comments and staff's recommendations in establishing the applicable quality measures and performance levels for a given review cycle.

A CON review schedule was published in the Maryland Register on July 11, 2025. There was no need identified under insufficient choice; however consistent with the HHA Chapter of the State Health Plan (COMAR 10.24.16.04), multiple jurisdictions qualify as having a need for additional HHA services under two other areas. First, the qualifying counties under a highly concentrated market include Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester. Second, the qualifying counties under insufficient choice of quality performing home health agencies (based on proposed quality metrics) are Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Wicomico. The jurisdiction of Baltimore City also qualifies under insufficient choice.

Below is the schedule that the Commission has published for submitting Certificate of Need applications for home health agencies. This schedule outlines the key dates and for applicants to ensure a smooth and compliant application process. We encourage all interested parties to review the schedule carefully and prepare their submissions accordingly to meet the outlined deadlines. Your cooperation is essential in facilitating timely evaluations and approvals.

The Commission will use the following regional configuration of jurisdictions for the Home Health Agency Project Reviews:

<b><u>Western Maryland:</u></b> Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington, Carroll	<b><u>Anne Arundel County</u></b>
<b><u>Baltimore City</u></b>	<b><u>Baltimore County</u></b>
<b><u>Howard County</u></b>	<b><u>Montgomery County</u></b>

<b><u>Prince George's County</u></b>	<b><u>Upper Shore:</u></b> Cecil, Kent, Harford, Queen Anne's
<b><u>Lower Shore:</u></b> Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester	<b><u>Southern Maryland:</u></b> Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's

**Schedule One  
Home Health Agency Projects**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Letter of Intent Due Date</b>	<b>Pre-Application Conference Date</b>	<b>Application Submission Date</b>
Western	August 15, 2025	August 27, 2025	October 17, 2025
Baltimore City, Baltimore, and Howard	September 12, 2025	September 24, 2025	November 14, 2025
Upper Shore	October 17, 2025	October 29, 2025	December 19, 2025
Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Southern	November 7, 2025	November 19, 2025	January 9, 2026
Lower Shore	November 21, 2025	December 3, 2025	January 23, 2026

**Schedule Two  
Home Health Agency Projects**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Letter of Intent Due Date</b>	<b>Pre-Application Conference Date</b>	<b>Application Submission Date</b>
Western	December 5, 2025	December 17, 2025	February 6, 2026
Baltimore City, Baltimore, and Howard	January 2, 2026	January 14, 2026	March 6, 2026
Upper Shore	February 6, 2026	February 18, 2026	April 10, 2026
Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Southern	March 6, 2026	March 18, 2026	May 8, 2026
Lower Shore	April 3, 2026	April 15, 2026	June 5, 2026

You can find information on our website -

[https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hcfs/hcfs\\_homehealth/hcfs\\_homehealth.aspx](https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hcfs/hcfs_homehealth/hcfs_homehealth.aspx)