

Summary of the Ways to Find In-Home Care

Source of finding paid in-home care	Examples	Services	Pros/Cons	Source's responsibility	Your responsibility
Word of mouth	Friends and Family	Recommend caregivers	Personal recommendation, not systematic	None	Background check, carer contract, payroll and taxes
Recommendations from local sources	Area Agency on Aging, Senior Center, Local Center for Independent Living	May recommend individual carers or agencies	Know the local landscape	None	Background check, carer contract, payroll and taxes
Apps/websites	Care.com, Caregivers.com	Connect with available caregivers May offer payroll service: Homepay.com	Carers available, may have references/must create account, share personal information	Usually perform background check	Carer contract, payroll and taxes
Professional in field	Geriatric Care Manager, Aging Life Care Manager, Aging Life Care Professional, Gerontologist	Advise on care plan. Services may include advertising for and screening carers, background checks, onboarding with payroll company, scheduling caregivers, and ongoing consultations as needs change	Personalized care plan, more control, ongoing input, can directly hire carers if choose with knowledge they have been verified/pay professional in addition to carers	Agreed upon tasks, including caregiving contract with each carer, keeping records of their activities, communicating with carers and you	Determining who is employer of carers, communicating clearly with professional

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Agencies—companion and personal care Agencies—Home Health Agencies—Both Personal and Home Health	Right at Home Home Instead BrightStar Care Senior Helpers	Provide carers in home. Some provide in-home consultation and care planning	Carers verified, often bonded, may offer training, agency responsible for compliance with state law and taxes/expensive, agency takes as much as 50% of hourly fee, not as much control over who comes	Background check, Credential verification, may be employer of record, responsible for taxes and reporting	Specifying what you want/need, instructing carer, paying agency Verify that agency is Medicare or Medicaid certified if those programs will be paying for home care. Verifying employment status of carers—you or the agency?
Provider associations	The National Alliance for Care at Home	Provide a directory of member agencies	Providers included in directory attest to high-quality care; directory is not comprehensive and some providers in your area may not be listed	Members of National Alliance for Care at Home	Finding a provider in your area, confirming they offer the type of home care you need, and contacting the provider to determine eligibility for care, if applicable.