



Explore a Career as a **PHYSICAL THERAPIST AIDE OR ASSISTANT**

Target Occupation Profile

What do Physical Therapist Aides and Assistants do?

Physical therapist assistants perform components of physical therapy procedures and related tasks, as directed by a supervising physical therapist. They help patients and clients who have movement difficulties due to injury or disease by using therapies designed to improve mobility, relieve pain, prevent or limit permanent physical disability, and promote overall fitness and wellness. Patients may include accident victims and individuals with short- and long-term disabling conditions, such as low back pain, fractures, head injuries, arthritis, heart disease and cerebral palsy. Physical therapy aides assist clients under the supervision of the physical therapy assistants, typically preparing patients, rooms and equipment.

Training & Educational Opportunities

You will have plenty of employment opportunities as a physical therapist assistant or aide, but first you will have to complete training. Physical therapist aides need only a high school diploma or GED and complete on-the-job training or earn a certificate; assistants need to earn an associate degree. Classroom study includes courses in English, anatomy, physiology, psychology and algebra. All states require physical therapist assistants to be licensed or certified. You will also undergo a criminal background check.

As a Physical Therapist Aide or Assistant you will:

- Educate patients about what to do after treatment
- Help patients perform specific exercises as part of the plan of care
- Observe patients before, during and after therapy
- Prepare patients, rooms and equipment for treatment
- Use devices and equipment such as walkers to help patients

Physical Therapist Aides and Assistants are in demand in Cook County!

Cook County employment of physical therapist aides and assistants is expected to increase through 2020. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recognizes the job outlook for these careers as growing much faster than average.

Physical Therapist Aide or Assistant

Training Providers

There are many training providers available in Cook County to supply you with the training you need for a career as a physical therapist aide or assistant.

To access a list of training providers for this occupation and many more, please visit Illinoisworknet.com and select the 'Training and Credentials' menu option to view 'WIOA Approved Training Programs.'



Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire physical therapist aides and assistants in Cook County, including:

- Doctor offices
- Home healthcare services
- Hospitals
- Nursing care facilities
- Offices of physical therapists

Wages & Openings

Physical Therapist Aide and Assistant Employment Data for Cook County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$11.12
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$21.94
Average Annual Job Openings Cook County	138
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	405

*Source: Emsi, 2017.2

Opportunities

After receiving your training, experience and/or degree as a physical therapist aide or assistant, you will have many opportunities for specialization. Some opportunities include:

- Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy
- Geriatric Physical Therapy
- Pediatric Physical Therapy



Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership

workforceboard.org

312.603.0200



CHICAGO COOK
WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter® network

