

LONG ISLAND **BUSINESS NEWS**

\$4.1M Awarded to Expand Caregiver Training on Long Island



Adina Genn, June 29, 2026

New York State has awarded \$4.1 million to address the critical shortage of trained [direct care workers](#) on [Long Island](#) by expanding access to education and certification programs for [home health aides](#) (HHAs), [certified nursing assistants](#) (CNAs) and [personal care aides](#) (PCAs).

The investment is part of a statewide initiative committing up to \$19 million annually over five years to establish Direct [Caregiver Training](#) Centers and support hubs designed to strengthen the long-term care workforce and meet growing demand for qualified caregivers. The Long Island funding was awarded to Commack-based Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, which was designated the regional training site for the Long Island Economic Development Region.

“Long Island is facing a critical shortage of healthcare workers, particularly in direct care roles,” Stuart Almer, president and CEO of [Gurwin Healthcare System](#). “By serving as the Regional Training Site, Gurwin can expand access to free, high-quality training and remove barriers that prevent people from entering and staying in the caregiving workforce. This investment will strengthen care for today’s seniors and build the workforce needed for the future.”

The expanded program provides free, paid training for home [health](#) aides, certified nursing assistants and personal care aides, along with support services designed to help participants complete their training and find jobs in the field. Through the support hub, students can access resources to address barriers they may face, including transportation assistance and childcare support. Gurwin is also partnering with community organizations across Long Island to reach underserved populations and provide multilingual outreach, helping to foster a pipeline of caregivers.

More information about the training is available [here](#).

The PCA training is conducted through a partnership with [VNS Health](#) in Jericho.

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