

What does a BHA do?

BHAs help address mental health and substance abuse issues or concerns in the community. During the certification process, BHAs are trained in many areas and can provide a range of services:

- Community education, prevention and early intervention
- Case management and referral
- Client orientation to services
- Client substance abuse assessment and treatment planning
- Rehabilitative services
- Quality assurance case review

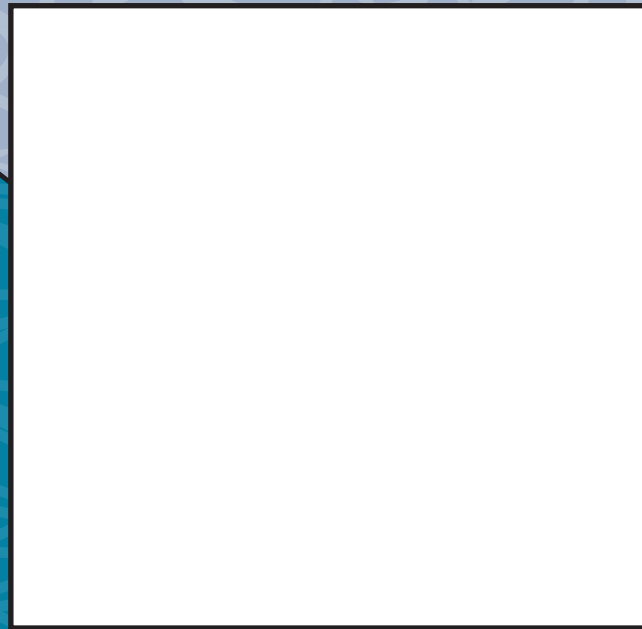
The actual duties of a BHA will vary according to their location, community needs and organizational needs. You are a valued member of your community. Becoming certified as a BHA is an opportunity to grow personally and professionally.



Your village needs YOU!

LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A BHA:
[HTTPS://ANTHC.ORG/BEHAVIORAL-HEALTH-AIDE-PROGRAM/](https://anthc.org/behavioral-health-aide-program/)

For more information on becoming a BHA in your community, contact your regional Tribal Health Organization:



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

[HTTPS://ANTHC.ORG/BEHAVIORAL-HEALTH-AIDE-PROGRAM/](https://anthc.org/behavioral-health-aide-program/)

GET CERTIFIED

To learn more about the Behavioral Health Aide Program grant, training or scholarships for Behavioral Health Aide training, please contact ANTHC's Behavioral Health department at 907-729-2431, or through email at bhaprogram@anthc.org



ALASKA'S
**BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH AIDES**

What is a BHA?

A Behavioral Health Aide (BHA) is a counselor, health educator and advocate. Using a holistic and cultural approach to well-being, BHAs help address behavioral health needs, which include alcohol, drug and tobacco abuse, and mental health problems such as grief, depression, suicide and related issues. BHAs support their community by combining their cultural knowledge with specialized training in behavioral health topics and approaches to treatment.

BHAs are employed by their regional Tribal Health Organization. They complete training that allows them to become certified by a federally recognized Certification Board as a BHA I, II, III or Practitioner.

Why become a Certified BHA?

BHAs work to promote healthy individuals, families and communities in rural Alaska. Whether you're currently employed at a Tribal Health Organization or are considering employment with one, there are many advantages to becoming certified, for you, your family and your community.

- Complete on the job training to learn the skills necessary to support community members.
- Work in the village where you live and become a professional resource to your community.
- Begin a career path to addiction treatment, mental health, psychology, social work or related health services.

What is the BHA certification process?

Getting started



Employment

You must be employed by Indian Health Services, a tribe or a Tribal Health Organization that operates a Community Health Aide program. Contact your local Tribal council or Tribal Health Organization to see if they have any BHA vacancies. Follow the organization's processes for being hired into a Behavioral Health Aide position.



Develop Certification Plan

You will need to develop a certification plan with your supervisor. There are pathways for those with degrees and those without degrees. ANTHC can help you with this.



Complete Application

Once you have completed the certification requirements, you will formally apply to the Community Health Aide Program Certification Board for certification.



Complete Training, Work Hours and Practicum Hours

You will then be required to complete specialized training, a clinical practicum and a minimum number of work-related hours. These differ for each BHA level.



Certification

After you are certified, you and your supervisor can decide if you will stay at that level or if you will complete the certification process for the next BHA level.



Continuing Education Units

Continuing Education is required every two years to keep your certification active.