Vocational Overview
A certified nursing assistant (CNA) provides basic care for medical patients. CNA healthcare settings include hospitals, skilled-nursing facilities, retirement communities, and in-home.

CNA employment includes the following duties:
- Assisting patients with daily activities
- Checking vital biological signs
- Completing medical reports

Career Outlook
National CNA employment projections between the years 2014 and 2024 estimate growth by 17%, translating to 267,800 jobs. California employs 98,040 CNAs, making the state the second largest CNA-employer in the nation. In the San Diego region, CNA is an in-demand employment category. The hourly mean wage for CNAs is $14.96 in California. The average annual income of a San Diego CNA is $30,930.

Career Advancement
Nursing Discipline | Healthcare Sector

Certified Nursing Assistant
22 days training
$30,930 annually

Licensed Vocational Nurse
Requires high school diploma or GED
1 year education
$51,870 annually

Registered Nurse
Requires high school diploma or GED
2–4 years education
$90,860 annually

Nurse Practitioner
6–8 years education
$120,930 annually

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
Requires master’s degree
6–8 years education
$71,530–$171,560 annually

Data Sources
The American Red Cross
US Dep’t of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Nile Sisters Development Initiative is a community-based organization that provides vital services to refugees and immigrants in the San Diego region. The NSDI mission is to educate, support, and offer training to refugee and immigrant women and their families to help them overcome barriers to social and economic self-reliance. Founded in 2001, NSDI assists refugees and immigrants to assimilate a new language, customs, and systems that are inherent to the American way of life.