



NDLTCA Newsletter

January 30, 2024

All Members - All Members
Assisted Living - AL
Basic Care - BC
Nursing Facilities - NF

NDLTCA Updates

Allan B. Engen Scholarships

All Members

NDLTCA is providing \$1,000 scholarships this spring for nursing students. Applications due by **April 1, 2024**.

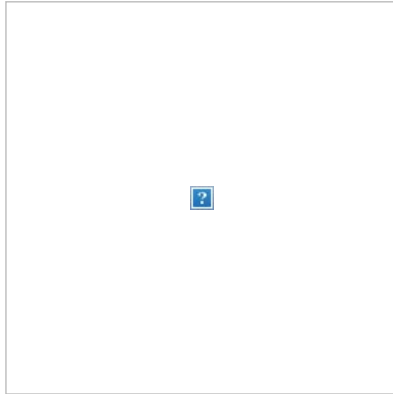
[Application information](#)

NDLTCA Volunteer of the Year Award

All Members

Deadline Approaching
Nominations due February 2, 2024

[North Dakota Long Term Care Association | Volunteer of the Year \(ndltca.org\)](#)



All Members

Deadline Approaching

Nominations due February 2, 2024

[North Dakota Long Term Care Association | Caregiver Award \(ndltca.org\)](#)

Education

Employee Retention Credit Update: *What You Don't Know Will Hurt You*

ALL MEMBERS

Members Only webinar

Tuesday, February 6

1:30pm Eastern

Join our expert panel of attorneys as they share the latest information on the ERC. Topics addressed will include the IRS's current approach to the ERC application processing freeze implemented in September 2023, what to do if you have been notified of an audit and what you need to know about the IRS's current posture on the ERC.

[Link to Register](#)

Proactive LTC Consulting - Five Star Improvement Check Up for the MDS Department

NF

5-week series February 7-March 6 2024

Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m. CST

Registration: Full series only

Cost: NDLTCA member rate: \$300 per person

non-member: \$450.00 per person

The MDS has a ripple effect on facility reimbursement, quality measures and care quality. This 5-session series targets what facility leaders need to know about the MDS to oversee and drive reimbursement, quality measures/QRP, 5-Star success and care quality.

Proactive's MDS experts will provide clarity on crucial performance areas impacted by the RAI process, avoiding common errors and driving outcomes through MDS accuracy in your facility.

[The Impact of the MDS \(swoogo.com\)](https://www.swoogo.com)

Medicare Advantage Coverage Denials: SNF Strategies and Considerations

NF

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. EST

[Register Here](#)

AHCA/NCAL to Host LTC Workforce Webinar Series

ALL MEMBERS

Attendees will hear directly from provider members – including AHCA/NCAL workforce committee members – and other experts on workforce matters and best practices from their experiences. It will also be an opportunity to get pressing questions answered. The first webinar in this series will occur on **Friday, March 1 at 3pm ET** and is entitled “Building the Path: Creating Careers in Long Term Care.” Be sure to [register today!](#)

[See webinar series here.](#)

[More Education on our Website](#)

Kepro Appeals Resource Developed from November Webinar

ALL MEMBERS

Kepro hosted a webinar in November on appeals. They took the questions from the audience and put together the below resource for providers:

<https://keproqio.com/providers/appeals/QuestionsAndAnswers>

Department of Health and Human Services

Medicaid eligibility standards updated for 2024

BC and NF

The US Department of Health and Human Services updates the poverty guidelines at least annually and by law these updates are applied to eligibility criteria for programs such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. The new Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is effective on 4/1 each year. All new applications and renewals processed after 4/1 will use the new FPL levels. The new FPLs slightly increase the limits for monthly income thresholds for Medicaid eligibility. It's a good time to encourage someone to reapply for Medicaid if they were over income under the previous year's guidelines but will now be within the monthly income limit.

[CMS Bulletin](#)

HHS Office for Civil Rights Releases Visitation Guidance Resources

BC and NF

Last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) released materials pertaining to visitation guidance.

[See our website for more information.](#)

AHCA/NCAL Updates

Senate Committee Launches Review Of Assisted Living Industry

AL

[KFF Health News](#) (1/25, Rau) reports, "A U.S. Senate committee on Thursday launched an examination of assisted living, holding its first hearing in two decades on the industry as leaders of both parties expressed concern about the high cost and mixed quality of the long-term care facilities." Both

"Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate Special Committee on Aging said their inquiry aimed to detail the financial practices and quality levels in the industry so that consumers would be better able to choose facilities." In a news release, the National Center for Assisted Living "said the overall quality of facilities is strong and best overseen by states. It acknowledged that the U.S.' method of funding long-term care is 'broken' and that assisted living is 'out of reach for too many seniors.'"

Joint Employer Rule Overview: What You Need to Know

ALL MEMBERS

Last year, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) issued the [final joint employer rule](#) that broadens the NLRB's definition of employer. It rescinds a [2020 final rule](#) issued by the previous NLRB. **Employers should prepare to comply with the new rule effective February 26, 2024.**

As a provider, it could potentially increase liability and exposure for long term care centers if they utilize staffing agency or contract workers. This rule could also impact employees of a staffing company and/or contractors who are either unionized, take steps to unionize, or who are non-supervisory employees (and nonetheless covered by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act even if not unionized).

AHCA/NCAL has provided a [summary](#) for its members with additional, vital information. Please note that an AHCA/NCAL member log-in is required to view the summary.

[Access the Full Summary](#)

Hourly Rates for AL Nursing/Personal Care Staff Increased 5-6% in 2023

AL

The 2023-2024 Assisted Living Salary & Benefits Report, published by HCS and supported by the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL), is now available. Overall, long-term care wages continue to increase, albeit at a pace slower than the double-digit increases seen in 2021/2022. This positive industry trend was supported in the three most recent HCS long-term-care Reports on CCRCs, Nursing Homes, and now Assisted Living Communities. All three long-term care sectors also saw turnover rates decline for the second year in a row.

[2022-2023 Assisted Living Salary & Benefits Report](#)

Advocacy

CMS seeks input on Medicare Advantage data

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) put forth a [request for information](#) soliciting

comments on all aspects of data related to Medicare Advantage (MA). CMS is looking for feedback from all MA stakeholders to enhance data capabilities, consider areas for increased transparency in MA, and propose future rulemaking. Responses are due **May 29, 2024**.

PAC Membership

Career Opportunities

All Members

Post a Job on Our Website

[North Dakota Long Term Care Association | Career Opportunities \(ndltca.org\)](https://www.ndltca.org/career-opportunities)

If you would like to post a job opening for your facility, please contact Casidie Fladeland at 701-354-9775 or email casidie@ndltca.org

Thank you to our Bronze Sponsor, Fusion Workforce Solutions!



