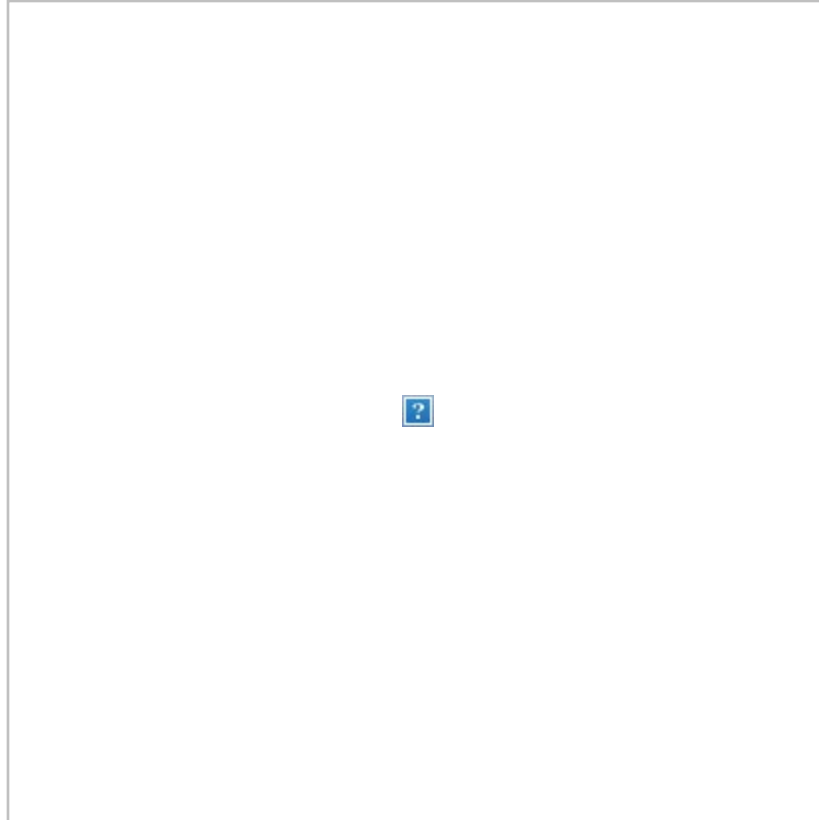


**From:** [Nikki Wegner](#)  
**Subject:** NDLTCA Weekly Newsletter 8-20-24  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 20, 2024 8:12:17 AM

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Please pass along to your teams as appropriate



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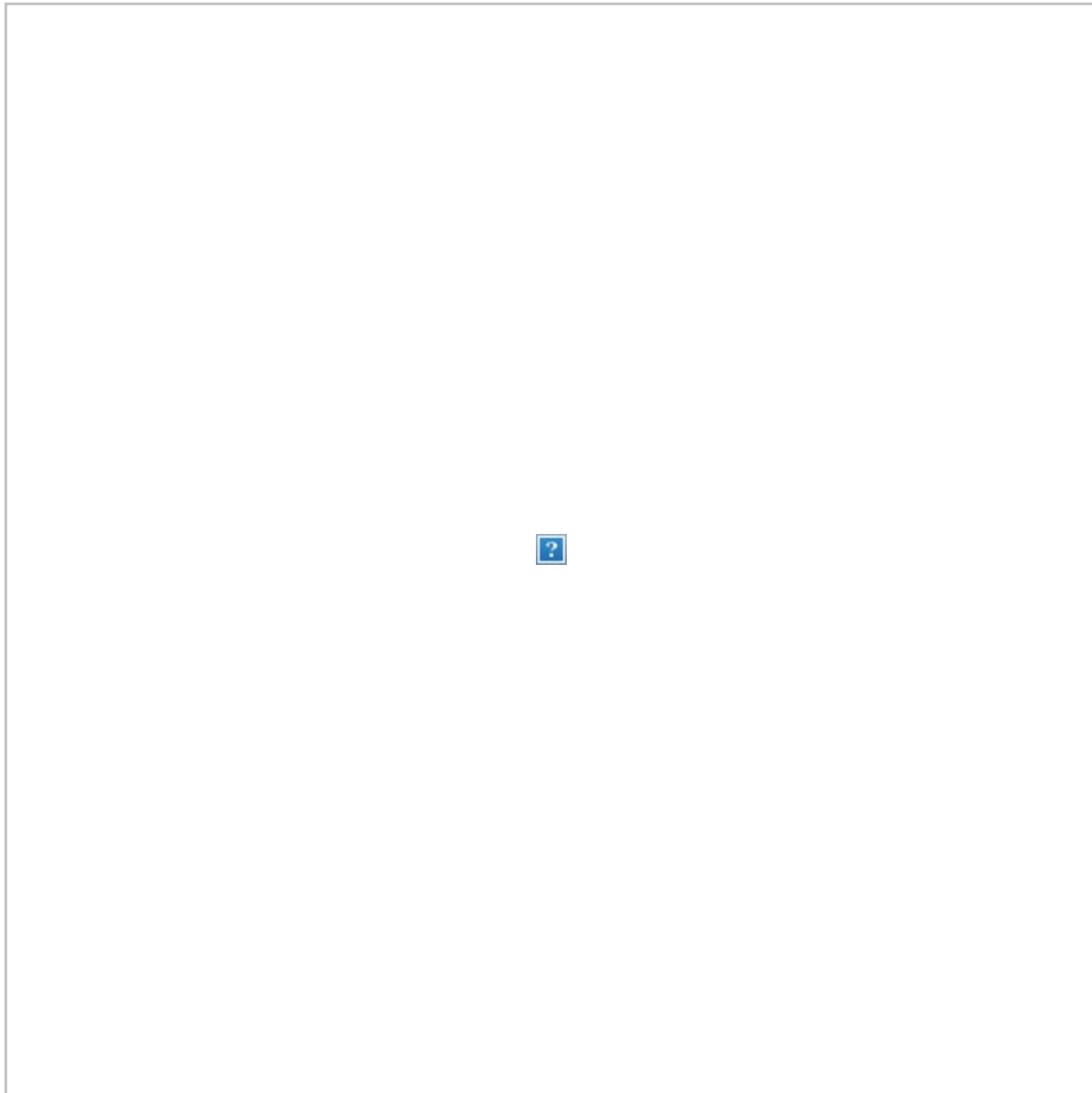
# NDLTCA Newsletter

## August 20, 2024

**All Members - *All Members***  
**Assisted Living - *AL***  
**Basic Care - *BC***

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## NDLTCA Update



***All Members***

We have an exciting lineup of great speakers, educational opportunities, and engaging events for everyone.

We look forward to seeing you there!

To register, please visit our website and follow the link below  
[North Dakota Long Term Care Association | Fall Conference \(ndltca.org\)](https://www.ndltca.org)

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## ALLAN B. ENGEN NURSE SCHOLARSHIP

### *All Members*

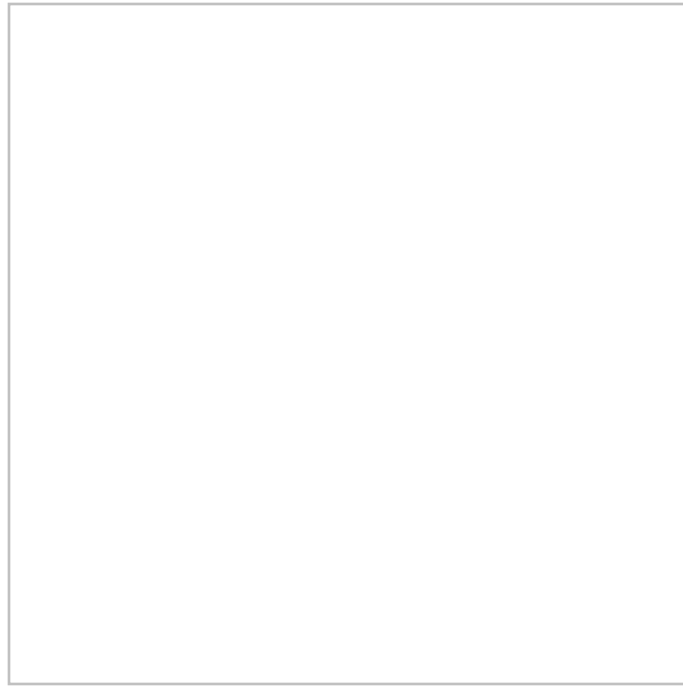
The North Dakota Long Term Care Association (NDLTCA) is honored to be able to provide scholarships to assist qualified nursing students who wish to further their education and practice in the long-term care profession.

All long-term care facility employees interested in becoming a nurse, (LPN or RN) are eligible to apply. Several \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to qualified students interested in a career in long term care.

Completed application and supporting documentation must be received in one package by the NDLTCA **no later than 1:00pm CDT on September 3, 2024.**

For more information and application, please follow the link provided: [Click here](#)

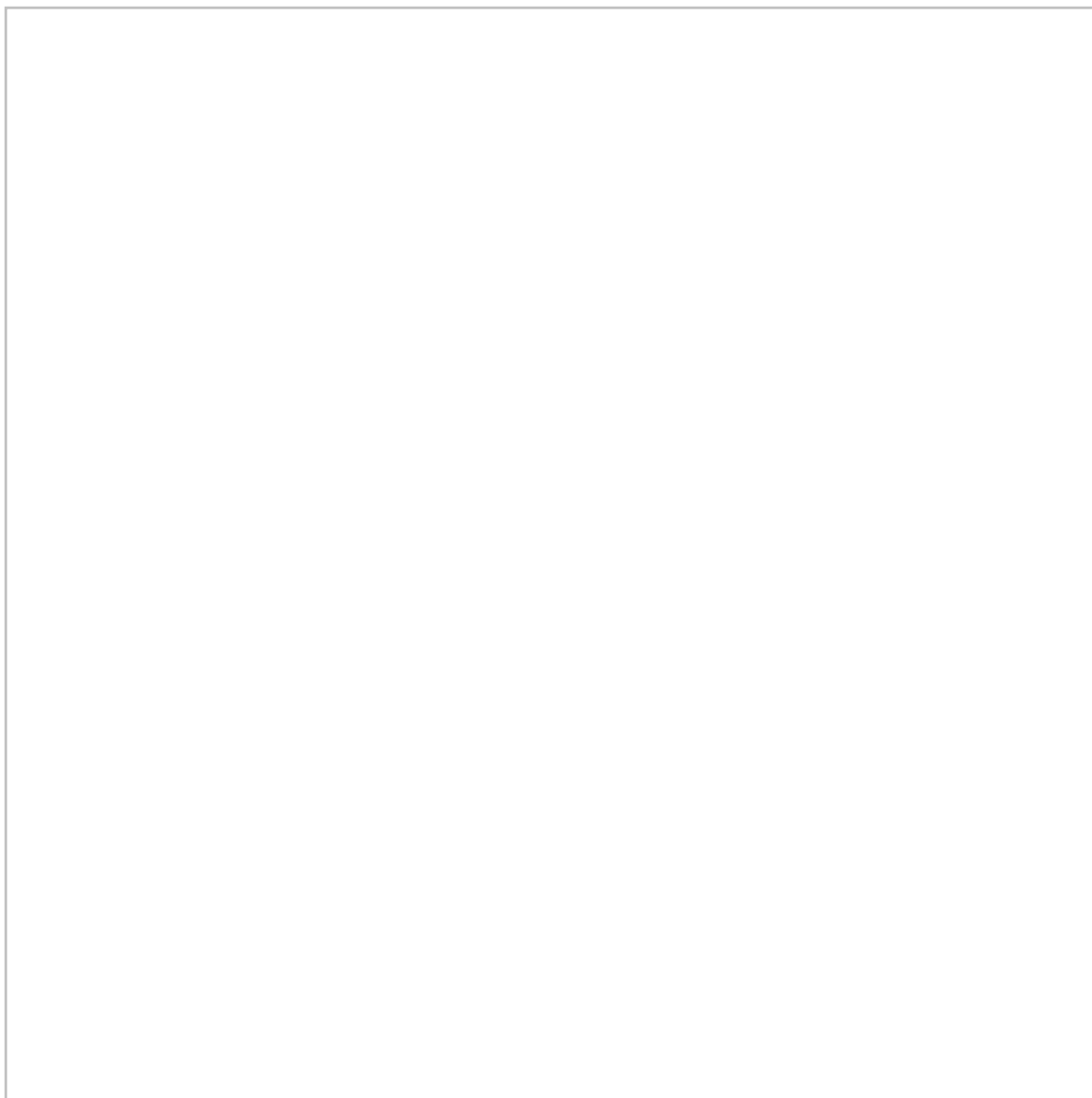
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Regions 3 and 5 are invited to participate in donating baskets for Cherished Hopes at the Fall Conference. If your facility is interested in contributing, please let Casdie know: [casdie@ndltca.org](mailto:casdie@ndltca.org)

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support a wonderful cause!  
As always, we are looking forward to seeing these beautiful baskets!

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***All Members***

The NDLTCA Board has decided to support the Keep it Local Coalition based on member feedback. We urge members to sign up for updates and volunteer if possible.

Key legislators are concerned that the November measure could cause a \$2.6 billion budget shortfall per biennium, impacting state spending and potentially leading to cuts in Medicaid reimbursements, which would reduce funding for long-term care services.

The coalition, with over 80 diverse members, aims to maintain local control and keep communities thriving. It's crucial that local voices educate others on the measure's risks. For updates, volunteering, or yard signs, visit [www.keepitlocalnd.org/connect](http://www.keepitlocalnd.org/connect). Follow the campaign on Facebook, Twitter/X,

## Regulatory

### Minimum Staffing Mandate Talking Points

#### *All Members*

As you are discussing the minimum staffing mandate with your district legislators, congressmen, the media, or community members, here are some key talking points to help us deliver a consistent message.

- We appreciate the continued support of our ND legislature in providing the necessary funding, which allows us to staff appropriately.
  - Our primary concern is the 24/7 onsite RN requirement, which 79% of our facilities would be unable to meet today. This requirement is intolerable to many of our rural and smaller facilities.
  - Limiting seniors' access to care can lead to negative outcomes. If nursing homes cannot meet the staffing mandate, they may have to reduce their census or, worse, close altogether.
  - Additionally, a shortage of available nursing home beds will delay care and worsen outcomes for seniors, who will have to remain in hospitals longer while awaiting discharge to a skilled nursing facility.
  - Our nurse leaders have confirmed that 24/7 onsite RN coverage is not essential for maintaining high-quality care. We provide skilled LPN coverage around the clock, and during the hours when an RN is not physically present, we ensure 24/7 access to an RN, NP, PA, or physician via phone or telehealth.
  - Nursing homes are eager to strengthen their workforce, but they need resources and policies that help support recruitment and retention.
  - We need targeted investments, not blanket mandates, to grow the long term care workforce.
-

## When Surveyors Come Knocking

NF

Being ready and prepared for when this situation arises can make the survey process smoother and a little less stressful. Mock surveys are a good way to ensure that staff have the understanding of what to expect when surveyors come to inspect your facility and to see what areas may need improvement. Education on how to handle surveys is an important part of training for all staff. A solid knowledge of your facility's processes and systems is paramount when questions may arise.

*The Compliance Store* can help you with being prepared for survey. Their [survey management section](#) has numerous tools to help guide you to a successful survey experience. Also, their vast [tools and templates category](#) have customizable policies and procedures, tools and other resources, broken down into specific areas, to help ensure you have successful outcomes. Be proactive and prepared before your next survey.

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## Impact of PDPM-Acuity and 90-Day Turnover Definition on Five-Star Ratings

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CMS released updated Five-Star ratings that incorporated the following changes related to [QSO-24-14-NH](#):

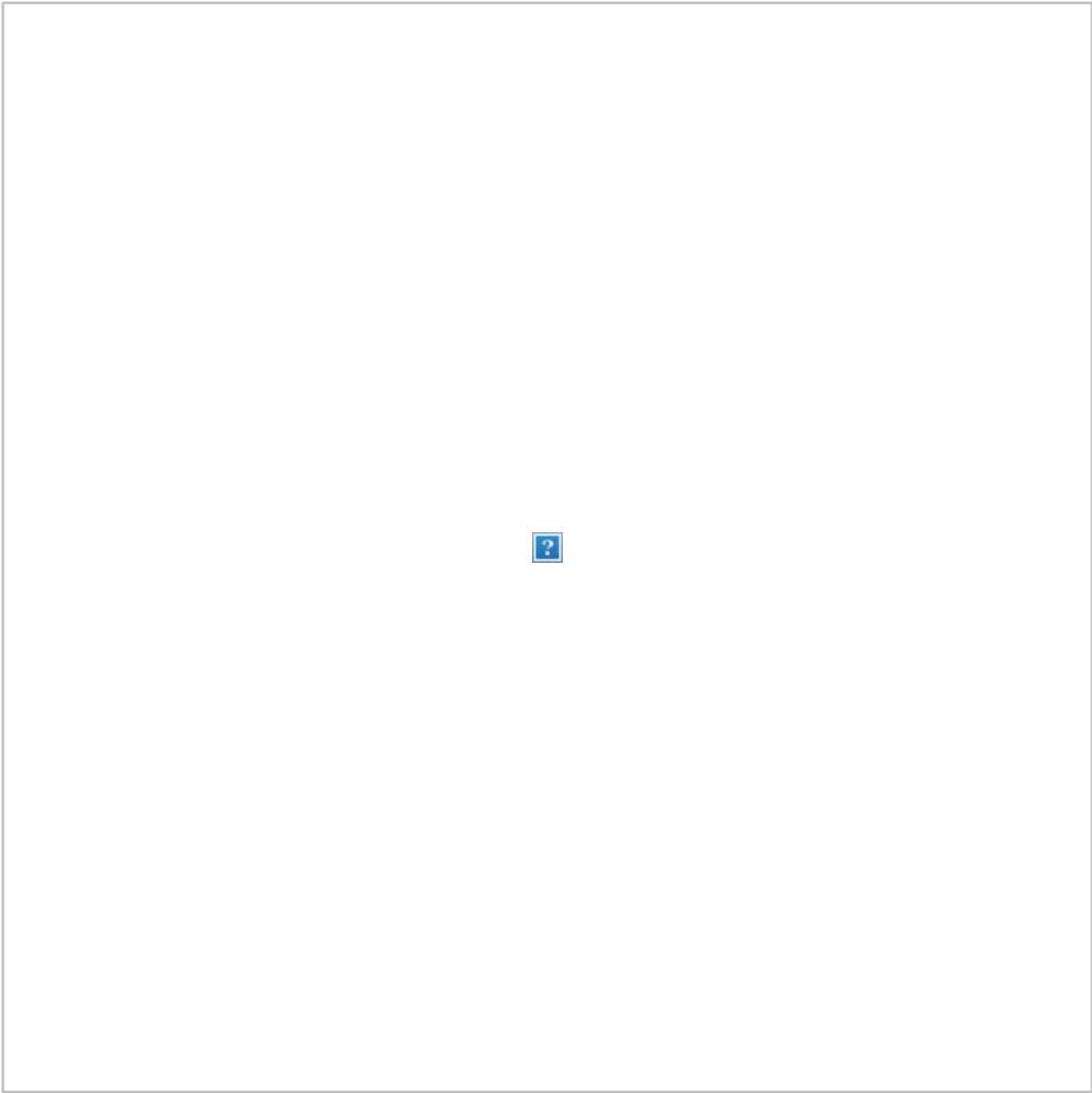
- Revised the PBJ turnover definition to 90-days from 60-days, and
- Switched to a PDPM-based acuity adjustment for Hours per Resident Day (HPRD) measures from RUGs.

As expected, there was a decrease in national average turnover rates (3 to 6% for each measure) with the change to the new 90-day definition.

### Five-Star Ratings Mostly Did Not Change

Most nursing homes in ND (n=74, 70%) saw no change to their Staffing Ratings in July 2024 from June 2024. Of those nursing homes whose ratings changed, 13 (18%) had a higher star rating and 9 (12%) had a lower rating.

Overall Five-Star Ratings also did not change for most centers in ND (57 (77%)).



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## Education



## **Managing Substance Use Disorders in Nursing Facilities**

Interested in receiving expert answers to substance use challenges you are facing in your nursing facility? Join Dr. Jen Azen and Dr. Swati Gaur, Subject Matter Experts, as they answer questions related to your complex cases. No question is too big or too small!

Join our monthly office hours on the third Friday of each month from 1-1:30 p.m. ET to get answers directly from the experts working in nursing facilities!

Audience: Appropriate for clinicians, nurses, administrators, and social workers.

For more information and registration: [Click here](#)

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## **Parkinson's Disease & Psychosis Webinar**

Please join Deb Wasano with Acadia Pharmaceuticals, NDLTCA Bronze Sponsor, for the third of three webinars on Parkinson's Disease & Psychosis.

**Tuesday, August 27th**

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Title: Parkinson's Disease & Psychosis – 3-part webinar series

To join please visit our website and follow the link: [Click here](#)

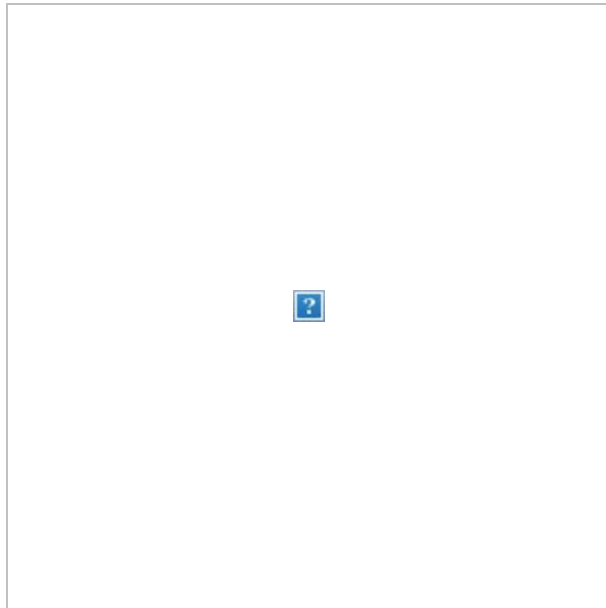
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## **AHCA/NCAL Update**

## **2025 Quality Award Portal**

We would like to share that the 2025 Quality Award Portal and Intent to Apply process are now open! All centers are encouraged to submit an Intent to Apply for the 2025 application cycle. Those that submit an Intent to Apply will benefit from key date reminders, a discounted application fee, and exclusive Program resources.

More information on the Intent to Apply submission can be found in the application packets on the [Quality Award website](#).



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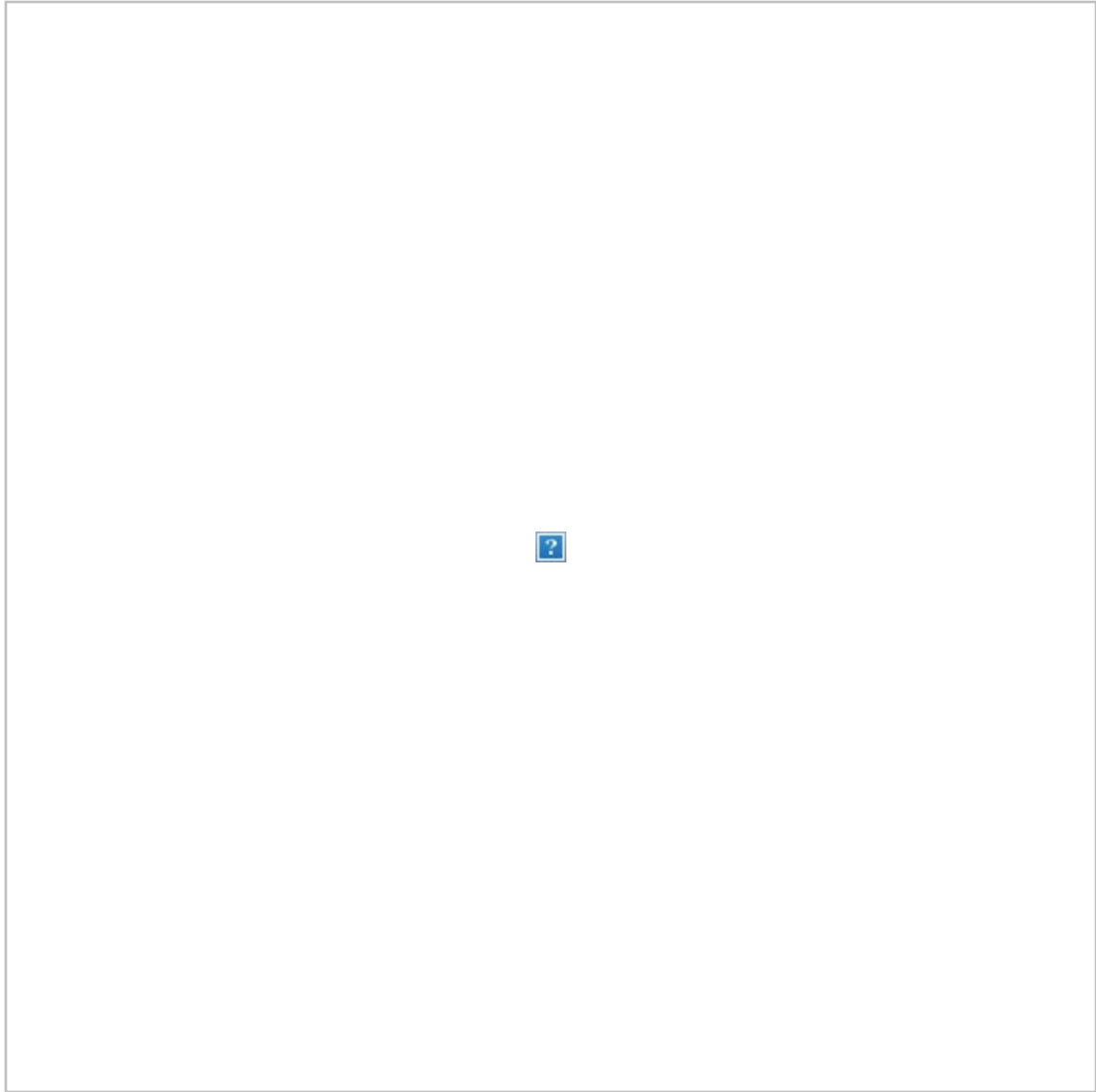
## Workforce

### Post a Job on Our Website

*All Members*

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

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](mailto:casidie@ndltca.org)



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