



NDLTCA Newsletter

November 4, 2025

All Members - *All Members*
Assisted Living - *AL*
Basic Care and Adult Residential - *BC*
Nursing Facilities - *NF*

In honor of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

All Members

♥️🧠♥️ Do What You Love to End ALZ

Join the Alzheimer's Association on **Nov. 6 at 6 p.m. CT** for a powerful Zoom experience that honors caregivers and empowers you to turn your passions into purpose.

Whether it's hiking, baking, gaming, crafting or hosting a party, your passion can help create a future without Alzheimer's. Join us to learn more about Do What You Love to End ALZ and how you can turn your passion into a fundraiser.

Register for the Rally at: act.alz.org/dowhatyouloverally



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NDLTCA Updates

Recent Meetings and Ongoing Work

All Members

So far this Fall, NDLTCA has had a variety of meetings with providers, legislators, and HHS to keep key initiatives moving forward.

- **Nursing Facility Incentive Program (NFIP):** Discussions are continuing around process design for the withhold and future payment mechanics.
- **Basic Care, Adult Residential, and Assisted Living:** This committee has made some progress in addressing regulatory and reporting requirements that don't match how facilities operate day to day. Providers worked with the state to remove interpretive guidelines for basic care, begin the administrative rule process to reduce unnecessary fire drill mandates, and clarify expectations around reporting critical incidents. The group is

focused on finding reasonable, workable solutions that make sense for both providers and the people they serve. We will hopefully be moving on to reimbursement at our next meeting.

- **New Construction:** The RSMMeans meetings brought providers, architects, and DHHS staff together to align construction cost data with the realities of long term care capital projects in North Dakota. The group is making steady progress in clarifying how base costs and add-ons have historically been treated and ensuring reimbursement models reflect true project expenses. Continued collaboration with HHS will include one to two more meetings before the end of the year to finalize recommendations.

We appreciate the continued engagement and input from members as we work together to strengthen North Dakota's long term care system. **Stay tuned for additional updates as these discussions continue into December and early 2026.**

Nursing Home Administrator License Renewal Now

Open

NF

It's time to renew your **North Dakota Nursing Home Administrator (NHA) license** for 2026! Renewal applications and the **\$250 renewal fee** (payable to the ND Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators) are **due by December 31, 2025**.

Key Details:

- Late renewals: **\$25 per month** after December 31, 2025.
- Licenses not renewed by **June 30, 2026** will be dropped.
- Administrators of record must renew by **December 31, 2025**.

Renewal Form:

 [ND Nursing Home Administrator License Renewal Form \(SFN 60369\)](#)

To renew in **active status**, you must complete **20 hours of Board-approved continuing education**. CE hours may be completed online or in person.

Those without the required CE may renew in **inactive status** (for up to three years) but may not practice while inactive.

You can submit CE certificates with your renewal or attach your **NAB CE Registry Report** instead. Learn more about the **NAB National CE Registry** at nabweb.org/licensed-professional/ce-registry-licensure.

If you **do not plan to renew**, please inform the Board office by emailing Peggy Krikava, peggy@ndltca.org so she can update your record.

Now Accepting 2026 Sponsorship Renewals

All Members

NDLTCA is now accepting **2026 Sponsorship renewals!** We extend our sincere appreciation to all our **2025 Sponsors**—your partnership plays a vital role in supporting North Dakota’s long term care community.

Our **2026 Sponsorship Program**, along with the **Sponsor Agreement** and **Sponsor Information Form**, is now available. We hope you’ll join us again in the coming year as we continue to enhance quality care, education, and events for our members.

 **Please return completed forms by November 28, 2025**, and indicate whether you’d like to be invoiced immediately or in early 2026.

[*Sponsorship Information form](#)

[*Sponsorship Agreement](#)

Help Us Grow Our Network!

If your facility works with vendors, suppliers, or service providers who might benefit from

connecting with North Dakota’s long-term care community, please share our **2026 Sponsorship Program** with them. Your referrals help us build strong partnerships that support quality care and professional growth statewide.

If you have any questions or suggestions on how NDLTCA can better support your organization, please reach out—we value your partnership and look forward to another great year together!

Quality

2026 Quality Award Intent to Apply-Deadline Approaching

All Members

The [2026 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program Intent to Apply \(ITA\)](#) deadline is quickly approaching! Be sure to submit your ITA before Thursday, **November 13, at 8 p.m. EST**. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and apply for this prestigious award! By submitting an ITA, applicants enjoy reduced application fees, receive exclusive tips to streamline the process, and unlock access to valuable additional resources.

Midwest QIN-QIO: Quality Support for Nursing Homes

NF

The [Midwest Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization \(QIN-QIO\)](#) partners with nursing homes across North Dakota to strengthen quality outcomes and resident care—at **no cost** to facilities.

Lisa Thorp, BSN, RN, a North Dakota–based Quality Improvement Advisor, supports our state’s participation in this national CMS program. With 30 years of rural nursing experience, Lisa works with facilities to identify priority focus areas, connect them to learning opportunities and technical assistance, and use data to drive measurable improvement.

Participation is flexible and designed to align with your existing QI work—**not add new burdens**.

If your facility is contacted by the QIN-QIO, or if you have a quality improvement need, we encourage you to reach out and explore this opportunity for individualized support. Enrollment is underway, with new quality improvement activities beginning in early 2026.

👉 **Contact:** [Lisa Thorp, BSN, RN – Quality Improvement Advisor, Midwest QIN-QIO](#)

A Team-Based Approach to Managing Quality Measures

NF

Successful quality measure management relies upon a shared commitment to data accuracy, timely communication, and coordinated care. [Read More](#)

Thank you to our Gold Sponsor, ROERS for your continued support!



Education

Join Us for the DON Lunch & Learn Webinar Series on the Nursing Facility Incentive Program (NFIP)

All Members

We're excited to continue our special three-part **Lunch & Learn** webinar series this November, led by **Sarah Berreth**, North Dakota's Nursing Facility VBP Administrator. These short, informative sessions are designed to provide nursing facility leadership with key insights into the **Nursing Facility Incentive Program (NFIP)**.

 **All sessions are held via Microsoft Teams** (invites were sent to all members)

 **Time:** 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. CT

 **Session Schedule & Topics**

 **Session 1 – November 4 – Completed, recording available.**

Program history

Included quality measures & historical state data

Review of CMS technical data for each measure

 **Missed it or want to review?** The **recording and handouts** are now available on our website under the member only section for those who were unable to attend—or who'd like to revisit the content. To access, [click here](#). If you do not have the password for this section, please

reach out to Stacy in our office at 701-354-9777.

◆ **Session 2 – November 11**

- Quality measure points & thresholds
- Tiers
- Payment methodology

◆ **Session 3 – November 18**

- Using Care Compare data to identify current points
- Understanding your facility's current tier placement

Make plans to join us for these valuable sessions to help Directors of Nursing and other facility leaders understand how NFIP impacts your operations—and how to stay ahead.

✓ If you did **not receive the calendar invite**, please contact **Peggy** at peggy@ndltca.org and she will forward it to you.

Workforce

Elimination of Automatic Extension of Certain Types of Employment Authorization Documents

All Members

On October 29, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced an [interim final rule](#) ending the practice of automatically extending employment authorization documents (EADs) for foreign nationals with certain types of EADs. [Read more...](#)

H-1B Proclamation Clarification

NF

Some members have had questions around exemptions for healthcare workers, so we reached out to AHCA and the Global Talent Office here in ND.

There is no carve-out for healthcare. Exemptions are on a case-by-case basis. Our Governor's office is interested in this issue and may be pursuing an exemption for healthcare in ND. We'll keep you informed on any developments.

For now, the 100k fee applies to the following (regardless of whether the employer is for profit or non-profit):

1. The beneficiary of the petition is outside the United States and does not have a valid H-1B visa.
2. The petition requests consular notification (rather than a change, extension, or amendment of status within the United States), even if the beneficiary is in the United States at the time when the petition is filed.
3. The petition requests a change, extension, or amendment of status within the United States, but USCIS determines that the beneficiary **is not** eligible for the requested change, extension, or amendment. (See further explanation of this below)

The 100k fee does NOT apply to the following:

1. The beneficiary already held a valid visa as of the effective date, or the H-1B petition was filed before the effective date of the proclamation.
2. The petition requests a change, extension, or amendment of status within the United States, but USCIS determines that the beneficiary **is** eligible for the requested change, extension, or amendment.

Here are 2 recent articles I wrote on this issue that might be of interest:

<https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Blog/Pages/JAMA-Study-on-Impact-of-H-1B-Visa-Application-Fees.aspx>

<https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Blog/Pages/H-1B-Non-immigrant-Visa-Program-Update.aspx>

JAMA Study on Impact of H-1B Visa Application Fees

NF

On October 29, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* published a [study](#) showing the increase of H1-B visa fees will most impact rural and high-poverty counties. [Read more...](#)

Regulatory

Important Updates: Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule and Updated CMS Contingency Plan Memo

All Members

Late on Friday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a [final rule](#) establishing final payment rate under the Medicare Part B Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and other policy updates for Calendar Year (CY) 2026. The rule will become effective for items and services beginning on January 1, 2026.

AHCA/NCAL has reviewed the final rule and developed a detailed summary outlining key provisions and impacts on members. *Please note this is for members only and requires an AHCA/NCAL log-in to view.*

[READ THE SUMMARY](#)

Assisted Living

Boost Your Assisted Living Leadership Skills!

AL

[Assisted Living Administration and Management](#) is your go-to guide for improving resident care and running smoother operations. Covering Organizational, HR, Business & Financial, Environmental, and Resident Care Management, it's packed with actionable strategies you can put to work immediately.

NCAL members save 30% + get FREE shipping! Use code **AHCANCAL30** at checkout. Available as an eBook or print.

With New Wave of Residents, it's Time for Assisted Living Providers to Embrace Population Health, Panelists Say

AL

A new focus on population health and value-based care is helping assisted living providers improve resident outcomes, reduce hospitalizations, and strengthen their role. [Read More](#)



Contact us at 701-222-0660 or email Nikki at nikki@ndltca.org or Peggy at peggy@ndltca.org.