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# NDLTCA Newsletter

## November 11, 2025

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



Today, we pause to honor the brave men and women who have served our country with courage and dedication. Many of our residents, staff, and family members are Veterans, and we are deeply grateful for their service and sacrifice. NDLTCA proudly joins communities across North Dakota in saying *thank you* to all who have served.

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## **NDLTCA Updates**

### **Important NDLTCA Membership Notice**

*All Members*

Dear Members, Sponsors, and Partners,

We're thrilled to share exciting news about the future of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association (NDLTCA) and the future of care in our state.

For decades, NDLTCA has proudly represented North Dakota's nursing facilities and basic care providers, and later expanded to include assisted living communities. Now, we're extending our membership to welcome home care, home health, and hospice agencies, as well as individual qualified service providers.

This growth doesn't change who we are it strengthens what we do. Our dedication to nursing facilities, basic care, and assisted living remains as solid as ever. By including the full continuum of care, we're creating stronger partnerships that will enhance advocacy and understanding for every member we serve.

In the months ahead, we'll collaborate with home and community-based service leaders to develop education, advocacy, and resources tailored to their specific needs while continuing to focus on the priorities and challenges that matter most to our existing members.

Thank you for being part of this exciting next chapter. Your commitment makes it possible for NDLTCA to grow with purpose and continue leading the way for long term care in North Dakota.

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## **Nominate Your DON for North Dakota's Nurse**

### **Administrator of the Year!**

#### ***All Members***

Do you know an outstanding Director of Nursing who leads with compassion, inspires their team, and makes a difference every single day?

Now's your chance to celebrate them! The **North Dakota Directors of Nursing Administration (NDNADONA)** is accepting nominations for the **2026 Nurse Administrator (DON) of the Year**

**Award**, to be presented at the **NDLTCA 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Awards Gala on Wednesday, May 6.**

This award recognizes exceptional leaders who:

- Promote excellence in nursing practice
- Inspire and mentor new DONs
- Lead with dedication and heart in long-term care

- [Click here for the nomination form](#)

**Deadline:** January 15, 2026

**Submit to:** [agoergen@good-sam.com](mailto:agoergen@good-sam.com)

💎 **Don't wait—nominate your DON today!** 💎

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## Rural Health Transformation Program Readiness Survey

*BC and NF*

North Dakota's grant application for the Rural Health Transformation Program has been submitted. You can review the full application on the [Rural Health Transformation Program webpage](#).

As a next step, HHS is conducting a readiness assessment survey to understand the capacity of our organization, health care providers and community partners to begin implementation. Basic Care and Nursing Facilities **should take the survey. Refer to Nikki's email for more information.**

**Submit only one response per organization.** This survey is for North Dakota providers and

community partners. Vendors should not respond to this survey. The survey will close at the end of day on Dec. 1.

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## 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.

In Case You Missed It:

- [First-Time Applicant Hour: Intro to the Quality Award Journey](#)  
**Recorded** - Registration is **free** to AHCA/NCAL members.

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## Regulatory

## Senate Approves Funding Measure To Reopen Federal Government, Address Telehealth Disruptions

*NF*

[Skilled Nursing News](#) (11/10, Mullaney) reports that Monday evening, the Senate "approved a funding measure that would reopen the federal government and address telehealth disruptions and other matters of concern to skilled nursing providers." While the impact of the federal government shutdown "on skilled nursing providers would likely be 'minimal,' stated" AHCA/NCAL President and CEO Clif Porter, "telehealth has been an area of concern, because waivers that extended certain telehealth flexibilities expired on Oct. 1." Groups including AHCA/NCAL "signed a Nov. 4 letter pressing Congress to enact a long-term telehealth policy."

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## NDLTCA Collaborates with ND Medical Association to Communicate Changes to Psychotropic Medication Regulations to Physicians

*NF*

As you know, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued updated guidance under F605, enhancing its focus on the misuse of psychotropic medications as chemical restraints and reinforcing the importance of gradual dose reduction (GDR) as a clinical and regulatory safeguard. These updates have direct implications for nursing homes and physicians in terms of how to prescribe, monitor, and reduce psychotropic drugs. Utilize these resources to build awareness and educate the providers that serve your residents:

- The resource document can be accessed through the [NDMED.org](https://www.ndmed.org) website, under "physician resources". [Here is a quick link to the document.](#)

- Here is a template "call to action letter": [Reducing Antipsychotics-Call to Action Template](#)
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## Quality Measures

### **NF**

Sarah Berreth, the Nursing Facility Value Based Purchasing Administrator would like to ensure everyone is aware of the technical data sheets and user manuals available on the CMS Quality Measures website. These include the *MDS Quality Measure User Manual* and related downloads for both MDS-based and claims-based quality measures: [Quality Measures | CMS](#)

- These documents describe:
  - The numerator and denominator,
  - Exclusions,
  - Any covariates,
  - The time frame for the data,
  - How observed and expected rates are used, particularly for claims-based measures.

Reviewing these materials can help you better understand how CMS calculates and reports quality measures — and support your efforts to plan, implement, and track improvement initiatives more effectively.

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# OBBBA Offers Tax Advantages For Skilled Nursing Providers, Report Says

*NF*

[McKnight's Long-Term Care News](#) (11/10, Marselas) reports, "While providers are closely watching to see how the One Big Beautiful Bill Act's Medicaid provisions affect their bottom lines, they may not be aware the bill offers 'significant' opportunity heading into tax season." Regarding "planning and cashflow purposes, OBBBA includes four key measures that will directly affect skilled nursing providers, [according](#) to CLA's 40th Annual SNF Cost Comparison and Industry Trends Report."

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## Education

### Update: DON Lunch & Learn – NFIP Webinar Schedule Change

*All Members*

Please note that our upcoming **DON Lunch & Learn NFIP webinar series** has been adjusted to accommodate **Veterans Day on November 11**.

The new dates are as follows:

- **Webinar #2:** Tuesday, **November 18**
- **Webinar #3:** Tuesday, **November 25**

Microsoft Teams invites have been updated and resent to reflect these changes. Please check your calendar to ensure you have the correct links. We look forward to seeing you at the sessions!

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## Free Maintenance Director Training for AHCA/NCAL

### Members (NDLTCA Members are members of AHCA/NCAL)

#### *All Members*

Enhance your facility's safety and compliance with the **Maintenance Director Training Course**, designed for long-term care facility managers and maintenance directors.

This four-module program covers:

- Maintenance Director Overview (live + on-demand)
- Fire and Smoke Door Inspection
- Generator Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
- PCREE Testing

Participants gain practical tools, downloadable resources, and a **certificate demonstrating competency** in NFPA 80 and NFPA 105 inspection requirements under the 2012 Life Safety Code®.

**Cost:** Free for AHCA/NCAL Members | **No CEs awarded**

Learn more and register at:

 [educate.ahcancal.org/products/maintenance-director-training](https://educate.ahcancal.org/products/maintenance-director-training)

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## Registration Now Open: ADC Course for Activity

### Professionals

#### *All Members*

Take your career to the next level with the **Activity Director Certified (ADC) Course**, taught by **Tia Hovatter**, a nationally recognized speaker, educator, and **NCCAP Licensed Instructor** with over 20 years of experience training activity professionals.

This engaging online program equips you with the knowledge and skills to deliver **life-enriching, person-centered activities** that meet the highest **CMS standards**.

#### Topics include:

- Therapeutic Activity Concepts
- Standards, Regulations & Survey
- Communication Strategies
- Cognitive & Behavioral Health
- Documentation & Evaluation
- Team Leadership & Staff Development

No previous experience required—perfect for both new and experienced professionals!

👉 Register now to reserve your spot: [Learn more and register here](#)

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## Workforce

## DOL Issues Four Opinion Letters

*All Members*

The Department of Labor's (DOL) letters provide official written interpretations that address questions and explain how laws apply to specific factual circumstances. [Read more.](#)

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Thank you to our Bronze Sponsor, Medline for your continued support!



Contact us at 701-222-0660 or email Nikki at [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org) or Peggy at [peggy@ndltca.org](mailto:peggy@ndltca.org).