



NDLTCA Newsletter

January 13, 2026

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

Care at Home - CH
Nursing Facilities - NF



Welcome to NDLTCA Care at Home Providers!

CH

On behalf of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association and all of our members, we are pleased to welcome our new **home health, home care, and hospice members** to the association.

We are glad you are here and look forward to learning alongside you, supporting your work, and strengthening connections across the full continuum of long term care in North Dakota.

This weekly newsletter is one of our primary ways of sharing **important updates, resources, and opportunities** with members. We make a concerted effort to consolidate information into

this format so you receive fewer individual emails while still staying informed about issues that matter to your organization.

As you review the newsletter, please note the **small designation under each item title**, which indicates the intended audience:

- **All Members** – relevant across the association
- **CH (Care at Home)** – specific to home health, home care, and hospice providers

This will help you quickly identify content most applicable to your work.

If you have questions, suggestions, or would like to get more involved, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are glad to have you as part of NDLTCA and look forward to working together.

NDLTCA Updates

LAST CALL-2026 QUALITY AWARD APPLICATIONS



**Applications Due
January 22, 2026,
8:00 PM ET**

If you are planning to apply for a 2026 National Quality Award, please remember that applications are due by **January 22, 2026, at 8:00 PM ET.**

WHAT IF WE DIDN'T SUBMIT AN INTENT TO APPLY (ITA)?

You can still apply! The ITA is not mandatory. While submitting an ITA provides benefits like discounted application fees and additional resources, it is not required to submit a Bronze, Silver, or Gold application.

ACTION NEEDED:

Log into the Quality Award Portal to complete your application, then submit it no later than January 22, 2026, at 8:00 PM ET. We encourage you not to wait until the last minute in case you encounter any technical or internal delays.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to quality. We look forward to celebrating our 30th anniversary year by recognizing providers like you who go above and beyond for the individuals you serve.

Questions:
qualityaward@ahca.org

NDHA Health Benefits Trust opens eligibility to NDLTCA members

All Members

The NDHA Health Benefits Trust, a self funded multiple employer welfare arrangement (MEWA) created by the North Dakota Hospital Association, has opened eligibility to long term care facilities and other healthcare organizations. The Trust offers a credible alternative to rising fully insured premiums.

As a member, you keep more control over plan design, gain a clearer view of pharmacy spending, and have a practical path to stabilizing your employee benefits budget. We will host an introductory webinar for NDLTCA members soon; watch for details. If you would like information now, contact Aaron Brennan at abrennan@ndha.org.

Education

Upcoming Cybersecurity Webinar

All Members

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 10:00 AM CT

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is proud to offer this Incident Response Training event, Data Analysis. We are excited to share this information with stakeholders across the federal enterprise and the nation. The 100-level training events are open to a general audience.

Participants can earn 1 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit for attending this course.

Key topics to be covered:

- Key guidance for organizations: Gain insights on enterprise instrumentation tools and methodologies that streamline incident response.
- Job Aid: Receive a triage checklist to assist incident responders in efficiently collecting endpoint data for timely, actionable intelligence.
- Case study: Explore a high-impact, global cyberattack, dissecting the tactics, techniques, and procedures that defined the incident.
- Knowledge check: Conclude your learning experience with a knowledge check designed to ensure readiness in applying these critical concepts in a real-world incident.

[Register now](#)

Free Mental Health First Aid training available

All Members

Free Mental Health First Aid training is available to help participants identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

The training is held via Zoom about three times per month, typically on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Participants must complete approximately two hours of prework, a 6.5-hour virtual training, and a post-test with an evaluation.

Between 8.5 and 8.75 continuing education credits are available for nurses, EMS personnel, social workers, peace officers, counselors, peer support specialists and massage therapists.

[View class dates and register](#)

HHS Updates

Therap homepage update

BC and CH

Therap introduced a redesigned homepage in October.

Beginning in early January, the new homepage will become the default view when users log in. Users will still be able to switch between the new and previous homepage during this transition period.

In early February, the previous homepage is expected to be fully retired, and the new homepage will be fully implemented. This update will affect all Therap users.

Users are encouraged to begin using the new homepage now to become familiar with the updated layout.

[Log in to Therap to view overview and module guide](#)

[See the January 2026 QSP update by clicking here.](#)

VA

State Veterans Home Inspection Simplification Act

AHCA/NCAL in supporting the *State Veterans Home Inspection Simplification Act*. This legislation would streamline inspection requirements for State Veterans Homes, aligning them more closely with other long term care oversight and reducing duplicative regulatory burdens. We support efforts to promote efficiency and consistency in inspection processes that benefit providers and residents alike. [Read more...](#)

Workforce

New LTC Workforce Webinar: Building Resilient Teams Through Cross-Training: Strategies, Challenges, and Success Stories

All Members

Based on popular demand, AHCA/NCAL will continue to hold a webinar series focused on workforce—related matters impacting long term care (LTC) providers across the country. The first webinar in the 2026 series will occur on Thursday, January 29 from 3 – 4 pm EST. The webinar is titled *Building Resilient Teams Through Cross-Training: Strategies, Challenges, and Success Stories*.

In this panel session, explore how organizations identify, design, and implement cross-training opportunities, and the role these efforts play in preparing for leadership transitions. Learn firsthand from industry peers about their challenges and successes. Leave this session with actionable advice for implementing, revising, or expanding cross-training initiatives in your own organization.

Be sure to register for the [January 29th webinar today!](#)

Federal H-1B Visa Changes

All Members

In late December 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security finalized changes to the H-1B visa selection process, shifting away from the random lottery and prioritizing higher-skilled and higher-paid workers. The rule takes effect February 27, 2026, and will apply to the FY 2027 H-1B cap registration.

In addition, a Presidential proclamation issued in September 2025 imposes a **\$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa petitions**. While the policy is being challenged in court by national business and higher-education groups, a federal district court has upheld the fee, and an expedited appeal is underway.

NDLTCA will continue monitoring these developments and share updates as they become relevant to workforce planning.

You can read more in the DHS news release [here](#).

In the News

Important Updates for Voting in 2026

All Members

| KFYZ TV: [ND Secretary of State on what voters need to know in 2026](#)

The North Dakota Secretary of State is encouraging voters to plan ahead for the 2026 elections—particularly those who rely on absentee or mail-in ballots. Ballots must **arrive by Election Day** to be counted, and voters are encouraged to mail them at least **10 days early** or return them in person to avoid postal delays. This is especially relevant for those we serve who may depend on absentee voting, as well as staff who help support voter access and education in care settings.

CMS Announces Plans To Remove Unsubstantiated Complaints From Nursing Home Care Compare

NF

[McKnight's Long-Term Care News](#) (1/11, Marselas) reports CMS "said Friday it plans to remove reporting about unsubstantiated complaints from Nursing Home Care Compare next month," informing "skilled nursing providers about the coming change in a special alert memo that also contained details on ongoing issues with Care Compare data discrepancies." AHCA Senior Vice President of Quality, Regulatory and Clinical Services Holly Harmon "praised CMS for 'prioritizing correction of data discrepancies related to the iQIES transition,'" saying, "We remain fully supportive of accurate, meaningful information that helps consumers and families make informed decisions about their care."

Rural Health Transformation Fund

All Members

The Dakotan: [North Dakota officials celebrate being among big winners in federal rural health funding](#)

North Dakota U.S. Sen. John Hoeven and Gov. Kelly Armstrong on Friday touted the success of the state's application for federal Rural Health Transformation Program funding, which landed one of the largest per-capita awards in the nation. North Dakota received \$199 million for the first year of the five-year grant. The funding amounts to roughly \$561 per North Dakota resident, according to an analysis by policy research organization KFF. Only six states received larger per-capita awards. The average grant amount was about \$200 million per state.

Insurance

New payer ID effective for a subset of Medica membership

CH and NF

As of Jan. 1, 2026, the self-insured employee health plans for Fairview Health Services, Ridgeview, and Medica are administered under payer ID 71890. Previously, Ridgeview and Medica employer groups were administered under payer ID 94265.

To avoid denials, be sure to reference the correct payer ID when checking Eligibility and Benefits

for all Medica members. This is typically shown on the front of the member's ID card. [Here's the login for Availity Essentials.](#)



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