



**North
Dakota
Long Term Care
ASSOCIATION**

Serving the Full Continuum of Care

NDLTCA Newsletter

February 24, 2026

All Members - *All Members*
Assisted Living - *AL*
Basic Care and Adult Residential - *BC*
Care at Home - *CH*
Home Health - *HH*
Nursing Facilities - *NF*

Education

Quality Measure Deep Dive Webinar

NF

NDLTCA is excited to offer a 7-week webinar series designed to help skilled nursing facilities better understand and manage the Quality Measures (QMs) that define performance, compliance, and reimbursement.

What to Expect:

Navigate the Quality Measures that drive SNF performance with practical, real-world strategies. Participants will gain a clear understanding of how key QMs are defined, coded, and calculated, and how everyday clinical practice directly impacts overall facility performance.

 7 – Week Webinar Series Every Wednesday Starting April 15 to May 27, 2026  1:30 PM

CT

 **Register here:** <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/QMDeepDive>

 Flyers and detailed schedules will be available on the registration page.

 **Questions?** Contact Belma at belma@ndltca.org

2026 Symposium on Adults, Aging & Disabilities

CH

Registration is now open for the 2026 Symposium on Adults, Aging & Disabilities, taking place April 7–8, 2026, at Bismarck State College in the Bavendick Stateroom. This year's theme, *Meeting People Where They Are: Care and Connection Through Person-Centered Services*, reflects our continued commitment to strengthening systems of support for adults, older adults, and individuals with disabilities across North Dakota.

The two-day symposium will feature a Commissioner's Address, nationally recognized keynote speakers, engaging breakout sessions, and opportunities to connect with community partners during our Lunch with Vendors event. Topics include ethics and autonomy, behavioral health in rural communities, dementia patterns, housing stability, moral distress, cross-cultural communication, and more.

Two registration options are available:

- Full Symposium Registration (regular rate)
- Vendor Lunch Only Registration (for those attending the Lunch with Vendors event only)

Continuing education hours will be available.

To view the full agenda and register, please visit: <https://2026-ND-Symposium-On-Aging.eventbrite.com>

Age-Friendly Healthcare for American Indian Elders Virtual Symposium

All Members

You're invited to a **free virtual learning event** designed for healthcare providers, professionals, and community workers who serve American Indian Elders. Please join us for the **Age-Friendly Healthcare for American Indian Elders Virtual Symposium** on **Wednesday, March 4th, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM (CT)**.

This symposium will provide practical tools, cultural insights, and evidence-based strategies to help you deliver high-quality, age-friendly care in American Indian communities. Event

Highlights:

- **Art Therapy** — Gregory Cajete, PhD
- **Honoring Tradition in Nutrition Care for Native American Elders** — Shauna Parisien, RDN
- **Legal Considerations for Elders** — Johanna Farmer, JD
- **Incorporating Mobility in Everyday Life** — Ruth De La Cruz, PhD & Devon Headdress, BS

What You'll Learn

By the end of the program, participants will be able to:

- Transform clinical operations using Age-Friendly principles
- Reliably apply the Geriatric 4M assessments
- Implement action plans for geriatric syndromes

This live activity is designated for a maximum of **4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)**.

Nursing, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy professionals may also use the credit for certification.

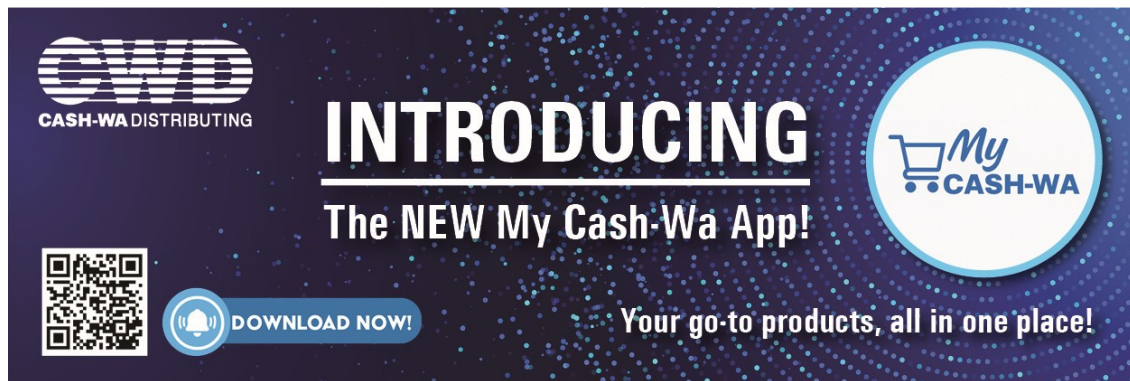
The UND Department of Geriatrics is a board-approved provider through the North Dakota Board of Social Worker Examiners for **4 face-to-face contact hours**.

Click here to register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Questions? Contact **Bethany Reed** at Bethany.reed@und.edu.

This event is supported by the Dakota Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Thank you for your sponsorship and support to our Gold sponsor, Cash-Wa!



Opportunity for Advocacy

All Members

The U.S. Department of Education has issued a proposed rule, *Reimagining and Improving Student Education*, that would revise federal student loan regulations and redefine which programs qualify as “professional degrees.”

Under the proposal, only specific programs (e.g., MD, DO, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, chiropractic, optometry, podiatry, and clinical psychology) would qualify for higher federal loan borrowing limits. Programs such as nurse practitioner (NP), occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), and other advanced practice disciplines would not be included—potentially reducing loan access for these professionals.

AHCA/NCAL and the Alliance have submitted comments opposing the change and are part of a coalition of more than 75 organizations raising concerns. Nearly 37,500 comments have already been filed.

Comments are due March 2, 2026, via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

Members interested in submitting comments can find additional information and instructions here:

<https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Blog/Pages/Department-of-Education-Proposes-to-Change-Professional-Degree-Definition.aspx>

Given ongoing workforce challenges in long-term care, this proposal could have implications for recruitment and training pipelines.

Facility Tours Remain Vital in Assisted Living Advocacy Efforts

AL

Congressional and Legislator tours give lawmakers a firsthand look at assisted living, strengthening advocacy by showing how policies impact residents, caregivers, and community care every day. [Read More](#)

Regulatory

CMS Delays Enforcement Provision in Medicaid Access Rule

CH

CMS has announced a delay in enforcement of the HCBS Access Rule, allowing states until January 1, 2029, to establish an interested parties' advisory group and publish recommendations regarding provider rates. [Read More](#)

2028 HCBS Quality Measure Set Review Workgroup Final Report

CH

CMS has released recommendations from a Workgroup review aimed at updating the 2028 HCBS Quality Measure Set to enhance care quality by standardizing measures and reducing administrative burdens. [Read More](#)

CMS Updated the Hospice Quality Reporting Program

Hospice

CMS released the February 2026 quarterly refresh for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP), with updated hospice quality data now available on the Compare tool on Medicare.gov.

The refresh includes:

- Hospice assessment measures based on data from Q2 2024 – Q1 2025
- CAHPS Hospice Survey measures and Star Ratings based on Q2 2023 – Q1 2025 data
- Claims-based measures using claims from Q1 2023 – Q4 2024

CMS also announced that the CAHPS measure "*Training family to care for patient*" will be removed from public reporting beginning with the May 2026 refresh, with reporting expected to resume in February 2028.

Workforce

AHCA Endorses Workforce Bills

All Members

Recently, AHCA endorsed two workforce bills: the *Ensuring Seniors' Access to Quality Care Act* and the *Enhancing Skilled Nursing Facilities Act*. [Read More](#)

Temporary Rule Released to Increase Numerical Limitation for H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Worker Program

All Members

Under this temporary rule, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, has the authority to issue up to 64,716 visas for Fiscal Year 2026. [Read More](#)



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