



**North
Dakota
Long Term Care
ASSOCIATION**

Serving the Full Continuum of Care

NDLTCA Newsletter

March 17, 2026

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

NDLTCA Updates



Celebrating World Social Work Day – March 17th!

All Members

Social workers play a vital role in long term care, advocating for residents, supporting families, and helping ensure compassionate, person-centered care. Their dedication, empathy, and commitment make a difference every day in the lives of those they serve.

Thank you to Kelly Gustavson and all the social workers supporting residents and care teams across North Dakota!

NDLTCA Caregiver of the Year

All Members

We are pleased to announce the 2026 Caregiver Winners. This year NDLTCA received over **823 nominations with 602 nominees** from across North Dakota. We had a lot of heartwarming nominations which made the selection process difficult but very rewarding. The panel of Caregiver Judges this year were Karla Backman, Barb Fischer, Bev Herman, Michelle Lauckner, Shelly Peterson, and Carol Ternes.

Congratulations to the 2026 winners:

Keanu Clark – Woodside Village, Grand Forks

Jodi Rae Ingstad – Griggs County Care Center, Cooperstown

Theresa Mees – Baptist Health & Rehab, Bismarck

Anna Hove – Fargo Elim, Fargo

From all of us at the Association, Congratulations to this year's Caregiver of the Year Winners!

NDLTCA Volunteer of the Year

All Members

Thank you to those of you who sent in a submission for the Volunteer of the Year Award. NDLTCA is very proud of the special people who volunteer and dedicate their time to the residents of our nursing homes. On behalf of NDLTCA, I would like to announce the winners of this year's Volunteer of the Year Award in the three categories:

Congratulations to the 2026 Winners:

Young Adults: Landyn Adams, Valley Senior Living on 42nd and Lucy Restad, Valley Senior Living – Tufta Manor, Grand Forks

Adult: Erllene Erickson, Valley Senior Living on 42nd, Grand Forks

Group: Extra Balloons – Kate and Matt Ekren, Good Samaritan Society – St. Vincent’s, Bismarck

From all of us at the Association, Congratulations to this year’s Volunteer of the Year Winners!



NDLTCA 12th Annual Fun Run on May 7, 2026

All Members

Join us for a fun way to celebrate Nurses Week and support the future of long term care nursing! Run, walk, cheer, or sponsor—every step helps support the Allan B. Engen Scholarship!

Sign up to Participate:

<https://ndltca.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Fun-Run-Form-2026.pdf>

Become a Sponsor:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fndltca.org%2Fwp->

[content%2Fuploads%2F2026%2F02%2FFun-Run-Sponsorship-Request-2026.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](#)

Grab your coworkers, show your support, and help make a difference for nurses across North Dakota! ❤️ 🏃

Thank you for your sponsorship and support to our Gold sponsor, Roers!



Regulatory

New Podcast: New CMS Models and What They Mean to Long Term Care Providers

All Members

Nisha Hammel discusses the rapid shift from fee-for-service to value-based care and what it means for long term care and assisted living providers. [Listen now.](#)

Survey Readiness Is Changing: What the March 30 CMS Updates Mean for Nursing Homes

NF

Survey readiness has always been a core operational priority for skilled nursing facilities. What's changing in 2026 is how regulators evaluate readiness and how much historical data they have available before they arrive onsite. [Read more...](#)

'Good news' as CMS doubles spending on nursing home staffing campaign

NF

Providers welcomed the "good news" Monday that the budget for a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services nursing home staffing campaign has more than doubled to reach \$200 million. [Read more...](#)

Skilled nursing providers praise 'movement' as CMS reconsiders rigid stance on antipsychotics

NF

Nursing home providers and pharmacy groups reacted with a mix of surprise and cautious optimism Friday, after federal regulators confirmed they are reexamining a policy that strongly

discourages the use of antipsychotic medications for most patients. [Read more...](#)

[Understanding the Long-Stay Antipsychotic Quality Measure](#)

[The updated antipsychotic measure uses MDS and claims data and will require facilities to manage medications more deliberately.](#)

CARES® trains staff in the evidence-based CARES dementia 5-step method, a person-centered approach to dementia care, so that they know how to identify individual triggers, mitigate causes of behaviors, and intervene with non-pharmacological approaches that support each resident's quality of life.

AHCA/NCAL members can save on the CARES training programs using either one of two promo codes. For [individual registrations](#), use promo code **AHCA100** at checkout and save \$100 off regular registration prices. For [site license purchases](#), members save even more with the **AHCA15** promo code and receive 15% off all site license purchase prices.

ND DOJ Stakeholder Meeting

CH

[2026 Schedule - ND DOJ Stakeholder Meetings](#)

Workforce

Update on Termination of TPS for Haiti (Release: March 13, 2026)

All Members

This guidance supersedes the [Update on Termination of TPS for Haiti](#) posted on February 14, 2026.

ALERT: After reviewing country conditions and consulting with the appropriate U.S. government agencies, Secretary of Homeland Security determined that Haiti no longer meets the conditions for its designation for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). See Termination of the Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 90 FR 54733 (Nov. 28, 2025). Haiti's TPS designation and related benefits were slated to terminate on Feb. 3, 2026. On February 2, 2026, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued an order staying the TPS Haiti termination. *Miot et al. v. Trump et al.*, No. 25-cv-02471-ACR, D.D.C.).

What this means for Forms I-766, Employment Authorization Documents (EADs):

The validity of Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) issued under the TPS designation of Haiti with an original expiration date of February 3, 2026, August 3, 2025, August 3, 2024, June 30, 2024, February 3, 2023, December 31, 2022, October 4, 2021, January 4, 2021, January 2, 2020, July 22, 2019, January 22, 2018, or July 22, 2017 is extended per court order. *Miot et al. v. Trump et al.*, No. 25-cv-02471-ACR (D.D.C.).

When completing the Expiration Date (if any) fields on Form I-9, input "as per court order" in Section 1 and "**March 27, 2026**" in Section 2 along with a note in the additional information box. Employers may download the Alert and TPS Haiti webpages and attach them to Form I-9. Check back to USCIS websites regularly for updated information. When completing a case in E-Verify, enter the expiration date of "**March 27, 2026**" from the Form I-9. Check back to USCIS websites regularly for updated information.

Please also check the USCIS [TPS Haiti](#) page regularly for updates. You may also subscribe to regular updates for Form I-9 and E-Verify using [GovDelivery](#).

New LTC Workforce Webinar: Where Students and Community Meet: Transforming Workforce and Resident Experiences Together

AL, BC, NF

Join us on March 25th at 2pm EDT to learn how HOSA (Future Health Professionals) and CAPS can help foster meaningful LTC partnerships in your communities.

[Read More](#)

Recording available for 2026 AHCA/NCAL LTC workforce webinar

All Members

[Building Resilient Teams Through Cross-Training: Strategies, Challenges, and Success Stories](#)

Education

C.A.R.E.™ FRAMEWORK – Collaborative Training Day

AL, BC, NF

Date: April 8th, 2026

Time: 8:30am-1:00pm

Location: First Community Credit Union – Mandan Branch, [4614 Memorial Hwy, Mandan, ND 58554](#)

Lunch Provided

The C.A.R.E.™ Framework (Context of Autonomy, Relationship, & Engagement) guides capacity and consent-related decision-making for individuals living with dementia. This collaborative training brings together multiple LTC facilities for shared learning and consistent implementation

To register, contact megan.dooley@innovativetherapysc.com



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