



**North  
Dakota  
Long Term Care  
ASSOCIATION**

*Serving the Full Continuum of Care*

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**NDLTCA Newsletter**

**March 3, 2026**

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

**Thank you to our new Platinum sponsor, EAPC! We appreciate your support!!!**



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## **NDLTCA Update**

### **Welcome Theresa Sack – Director of Emergency Planning**

*All Members*

We're pleased to share that Theresa Sack will be joining NDLTCA as our new Director of Emergency Planning.

Theresa brings valuable experience from both emergency and long-term care settings, along with a background in fast-paced care environments and cross-team coordination that will support our continued efforts to strengthen preparedness and response resources for members.

She will begin on March 16 and will spend her first two weeks onboarding alongside Vanessa to support a smooth transition.

In this part-time role, Theresa will focus on enhancing emergency planning resources, coordination, and future initiatives to help members navigate challenges and disruptions.

Please join us in welcoming Theresa to the NDLTCA team.

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## Welcome to our New Sponsors!

### *All Members*

We are pleased to welcome several new sponsors to the Association! Please join us in recognizing **EAPC** as our newest **Platinum Sponsor**, **Cash-Wa Distributing**, **Flint Healthcare, Inc.**, and **McGough Construction** as **Gold Sponsors**, and **MDS Solutions** as a **Bronze Sponsor**.

Our sponsors play a vital role in supporting our members and advancing the Association's mission. **A complete listing of sponsors and contact information is available on our website at [www.ndltca.org/sponsors](http://www.ndltca.org/sponsors).** We encourage members to consider our sponsors when seeking trusted services and resources.

**EAPC** provides comprehensive architectural and engineering services focused on designing senior living environments that promote comfort, dignity, and quality of life.

**Cash-Wa Distributing** supports healthcare providers with dependable access to food, medical, and facility supplies backed by advanced logistics, reliable delivery, and exceptional customer

service.

**Flint Healthcare, Inc.** helps healthcare organizations reduce reliance on agency staffing by connecting providers with permanent clinical staff committed to long-term placement and workforce stability.

**McGough Construction**, headquartered in Fargo with offices across North Dakota, brings extensive healthcare construction expertise to support facility renovations, expansions, and new builds.

**MDS Solutions** partners with skilled nursing facilities to strengthen compliance, support MDS completion needs, and optimize clinical reimbursement through experienced RAC-certified MDS professionals.

Please join us in welcoming and thanking our newest sponsors for their commitment to supporting long-term care providers across North Dakota! 🎉



# 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! ❤️ 🏃

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## Education

### Is Your Coding Team Ready for 2026?

#### *NF*

The **ICD-10-CM 2026 Official International Classification of Diseases** is now available. Give your coding team the head start they need with updated codes, descriptions, indexes, and tables — all in one essential reference. This must-have manual includes the 2026 coding guidelines, an

alphabetical index to the tabular list, a comprehensive table of drugs and chemicals, and easy-to-spot symbols and color coding. Order yours today from AHCA/NCAL Publications [here](#).

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## 2026 Year-Long Webinar Series: March Webinars

*NF as well as All Members*

### **Survey & Clinical Risk Management**

 **Tuesday, March 10, 2026** |  **1:30 PM CT**

#### **Documentation Excellence—Avoiding Survey & Legal Pitfalls**

This session emphasizes the importance of accurate, thorough documentation to support quality care, regulatory compliance, and legal protection. Participants will learn how to identify documentation gaps and implement practical improvement strategies to reduce survey and legal risk.

 <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/surveyclinicalriskmanagement>

### **DON Playbook: Skills for Today's LTC Nurse Leader**

 **Tuesday, March 17, 2026** |  **1:30 PM CT**

#### **Incident Management: Effective Systems for Adverse Events and Reportable Occurrences**

This presentation provides an in-depth review of best practices for identifying, reporting, investigating, and documenting adverse events in skilled nursing facilities. Discussion includes definitions of adverse events, near misses, and reportable incidents, root cause analysis, reporting requirements, and documentation best practices to support resident safety and regulatory compliance.

 <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/donplaybook>

### **TEAM MDS! Insights & Coaching for Quality Coding & PDPM Success**

📅 Tuesday, March 24, 2026 | 🕒 1:30 PM CT

### Ruling MDS 3.0 Assessment and Completion

This focused 60-minute session provides an essential overview of CMS requirements for MDS 3.0 assessment and completion, including corrections, deletions, IPAs, interrupted stays, and discharge processes. Participants will review regulatory updates, documentation best practices, and real-world coding examples to support compliance, accuracy, and PDPM reimbursement outcomes.

🔗 <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/teammds>

📄 Flyers and detailed schedules are available on each registration home page. If you have any questions, please reach out to **Belma** at [belma@ndltca.org](mailto:belma@ndltca.org).

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**Thank you for your sponsorship and support to our Gold sponsor, Infinity Rehab!**



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**Rural Health Transformation Program Update**

# Update from ND Dept. of Health and Human Services 3-2-26

## *All Members*

On Feb. 25, 2026, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved \$194,807,869.55 for North Dakota's year-one Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) budget. The remaining \$4,129,100 is still under review with CMS. This was a required step that aligned CMS's Notice of Award amount with the budget request North Dakota submitted as part of its RHTP application in early November 2025.

This approval allows North Dakota Health and Human Services (ND HHS) to move forward with program implementation and begin releasing funding opportunities in phases.

We have a short window to put the first year of funding to work. ND HHS is prioritizing funding opportunities that build on existing infrastructure, partnerships and systems already in place, so we can move quickly and maximize impact.

The year-one funding must be obligated by Oct. 30, 2026, and fully spent by Sept. 30, 2027.

ND HHS expects to release one of the first funding opportunities to support the retention of rural and tribal providers as soon as possible. We anticipate this to be announced in early to mid-March. Additional opportunities will follow in the coming weeks and months.

[Sign up to receive RHTP updates](#) from ND Department of Health and Human Services.

[Visit the website for more information.](#)

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## Regulatory

# CMS Updates SNF Provider Enrollment and Revalidation Guidance

*NF*

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently posted three important updates to its SNF Provider Enrollment [Guidance and FAQ document](#).

1. The section regarding the suspended application submission due dates for all SNFs was updated with new content, noting that **SNFs that have not yet submitted their revalidation applications or had their revalidation applications rejected and have not submitted a new one are still required to submit said applications but may wait to do so until CMS announces a new due date**. SNFs that have revalidation applications pending with their MAC can still expect to receive determination letters over the coming months.
2. A new Q&A was added indicating that **providers that have submitted revalidation applications must still meet the 30-day response time for providing additional information to the MAC**.
3. A new section regarding longstanding required provider enrollment data (non-SNF attachment data) was added where CMS reminds SNFs that **all required data on the application must be furnished and all other requirements completed**.

AHCA will continue to provide updates as they are available. Please contact the [AHCA SNF provider enrollment revalidation helpdesk](#) with questions. [Read more...](#)

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## CMS To Host May 12 CCSQ Leadership Webinar

*All Medicare and Medicaid provider members*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) will hold a webinar to provide updates on CCSQ initiatives. [Read more.](#)

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## DOGE Update

### *All Members*

**February 26, 2026** – On February 13, 2026, the “DOGE” team within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the largest public dataset of [Medicaid provider spending data](#) in department history. It is the first dataset posted on HHS’s open data platform. HHS DOGE stated that this release will enable detection of “[large scale](#)” fraud, citing recent enforcement actions such as the autism-related fraud case in Minnesota. The McDermott+ team downloaded the full dataset (10 GB and more than 227 million rows!) and is conducting an independent analysis.....

This dataset is limited in scope. It includes professional and outpatient services with HCPCS codes but does not include:

- Inpatient facility claims
- Pharmacy claims
- Long-term care services
- Other non-HCPCS-based spending categories (i.e., non-emergency transportation claims)

For full article, click here: [Over easy or undercooked? First look at DOGE's Medicaid data - McDermott+](#)

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## Revised PBJ Data Specifications Now Available

*NF*

Providers should note that a revised version of the PBJ Data Specifications is now available. Providers are encouraged to start using this version. [Read More](#)

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## CMS Releases Informational Bulletin on the Exercise of Enforcement Discretion for Requirements for a Medicaid Fee-For-Service Grievance System for Home and Community-Based Services

*CH*

**February 26, 2026** - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released an [informational bulletin](#) announcing that it does not anticipate taking enforcement action against states with respect to the Fee-For-Service grievance system requirements at 42 CFR §§ 441.301(c)(7), 441.464(d)(5), 441.555(e), and 441.745(a)(1)(iii) (“FFS grievance system requirements”) that were issued as part of the Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services final rule (Access rule) before December 31, 2027. CMS is exercising enforcement discretion to allow more time to facilitate state compliance with grievance system requirements, particularly for states that have implemented or intend to implement electronic systems. In addition, this enforcement discretion will allow states to focus critical resources on implementing recent federal legislation.

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# 1915(c) HCBS Waiver Payments and Financing Trends

*CH & AL/ARC/BC Ad Hoc Committee Members*

**March 24, 2026, at 2:00pm - 3:30pm ET**

CMS's training will provide an overview of active Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs under Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act including the populations served, eligibility requirements, and the mechanisms states use to finance, pay for 1915(c) waiver services, and administer 1915(c) programs. In this training, we will share national data that spotlights key financing and payment trends.

We will highlight common state and local funding sources including intergovernmental transfers, certified public expenditures, and cost-sharing arrangements. We will also spotlight the most common payment methodologies and reimbursement strategies rates such as fee schedules, negotiated market prices, tiered rates, cost reconciliation, and capitated payments, along with supplemental payments and the use of fiscal intermediaries. Lastly, we will review key payment and financing trends relating to payments to government providers, approaches for excluding room and board costs, and examples of payments for unrelated live-in caregivers.

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## Workforce

### Where Students and Community Meet: Transforming Workforce and Resident Experiences Together

*All Members*

AHCA/NCAL is hosting their next workforce webinar session **March 25 at 1pm CT.**

Long term care (LTC) leaders are seeking practical ways to strengthen CNA pipelines and other LTC positions while preserving care quality, culture, and resident experience. Hear from AHCA/NCAL state affiliates, providers and other leaders on how [HOSA \(Future Health Professionals\)](#) and [CAPS](#) can help foster meaningful LTC partnerships in your communities. [Register here](#)

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## Opportunities for Advocacy

### Interim Legislative Calendar

#### *All Members*

- Mar. 12 | 9 am | [Administrative Rules Committee](#)
- Mar. 18 | 10 am | [Budget Section](#)
- Mar. 18 | 12:30 pm | [Admin Rules Hearing - HHS Substance Use Disorder Treatment Voucher](#)
- Mar. 18 | 1 pm | [Budget Section - Regulatory Division](#)
- Mar. 18 | 1 pm | [Budget Section - Human Resources Division](#)
- Mar. 19 | 10 am | [Government Finance - Transportation Study Subcommittee](#)
- Mar. 19 | 1 pm | [Government Finance Committee](#)
- Mar. 24 | 10 am | [Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee](#)
- Mar. 25 | 10 am | [Legislative Task Force on Gov. Efficiency](#)



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).