



## **NDLTCA Newsletter**

**May 1, 2026**

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

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**The NDLTCA team will be out of office this week for the Annual Convention. Hope to see you there!**



**Thank you to all of our incredible members and sponsors who are participating!**

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**Education**

# May 2026 Year-Long Webinar Series: May Webinars

## All Members

NDLTCA's year-long webinar series continues in May! Below is a look at what each session will cover:

### Survey & Clinical Risk Management

 Tuesday, May 12, 2026 |  1:30 PM CT

#### **Pressure Ulcer/Injury Management & Prevention Strategies**

This session explores best practices for preventing and managing pressure injuries. Participants will learn to identify risk factors, implement preventive strategies, and improve resident outcomes.

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

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

 Tuesday, May 19, 2026 |  1:30 PM CT

#### **IP Leadership Oversight Strategies for Compliance and Performance**

Effective infection prevention and control in skilled nursing facilities requires strong leadership, consistent oversight, and data-driven auditing.

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

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

 Tuesday, May 26, 2026 |  1:30 PM CT

#### **Mastering Assessment and Reporting of Self-Care and Mobillit/Coding in Section O & GG**

This interactive session provides a deep dive into MDS 3.0 Section GG and Section O coding requirements for the assessment and reporting of self-care and mobility.

 <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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## Funding Opportunities

# Rural Health Transformation Program Update

*All Members*

[Hunnicut, national wellness leader, joins North Dakota's rural health transformation effort.](#)



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

## Hunnicut Joins Rural Health Transformation



**NORTH  
Dakota** | Health & Human Services  
Be Legendary.

New RHTP funding opportunities available, [click here.](#)

Interesting articles:

[NRHA's latest Member Perspective Paper on RHTP funds and transforming rural health access through workforce data capacity.](#)

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## ND Department of Commerce-Grant Programs

*All Members*

The North Dakota Department of Commerce offers programs and services to support business, workforce and community development in partnership with local leaders. See grant opportunities [here](#).

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## USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program Applications Now Open

### ***All Members***

The Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Rural Development opened its applications for its [Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program](#). This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas, including rural hospitals and healthcare providers. Please find the fact sheet [here](#).

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## CMS Announcement: Nurses May Qualify for Up to \$40,000 in Student Loan Repayment

### ***NF***

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services highlighting information on how nurses who work in a nursing home may qualify for significant financial support, including up to \$40,000 in student loan repayment and up to \$10,000 as an incentive stipend.

Applications are expected to go live later this year.

Nursing home staffing is a critical factor in improving care for nursing home residents. CMS is committed to improving safety and quality of care in the nation's nursing homes. These financial incentives are aimed at increasing the availability of qualified nurses to work in nursing home settings.

Sign up now to [receive updates](#) as more information becomes available.

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## Regulatory Update

### CMS Releases Updated 2026 Supplemental Security Income and Spousal Impoverishment Standards

*All Members*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [CMCS Informational Bulletin](#) with the updated 2026 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Spousal Impoverishment Standards.

These changes happen yearly. When the income threshold increases, usually the client share decreases. Our ND system will be programmed with the changes and these cases will be reprocessed automatically. In this change, effective 7/1/2026, the Community Spouse will now have an income allowance of \$2,705 instead of the current \$2,644.

The change for SSI was effective 1/1/2026, so there's no change with this release letter.

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### National Association of Medicaid Directors Highlights Coming Changes

*All Members*

The latest National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) partner newsletter has a few items worthy of attention heading into what will be a very demanding fiscal and regulatory season.

The most relevant highlights include:

**Budget forecasting under pressure.** NAMD's new brief, [The Art and Science of Medicaid Budget Forecasting](#), is timed well — states are entering the coming fiscal year in belt-tightening mode while managing a program that looks materially different than it did three years ago. For LTC providers, state fiscal stress means reimbursement rate pressure is real and near-term all across the nation.

**HCBS coordination signal.** NAMD, ADvancing States, and NASDDDS released a [joint infographic on Medicaid HCBS](#) — a visible sign of cross-sector alignment on home and community-based services. CMS is also hosting [a national listening session on May 19](#) on the new Section 1915(c)(11) HCBS waiver authority created under H.R. 1 (effective July 2028).

**Provider revalidation.** CMS directed all state Medicaid directors last week to submit comprehensive provider revalidation plans within 30 days, with full revalidation of all Medicaid providers required within two years. High-risk provider prioritization plans are due within 10 days. LTC providers should be aware this is coming and ensure their enrollment and credentialing records are in order.

**Noncitizen coverage changes incoming.** CMS issued implementation guidance for Section 71109, which limits federal matching funds for Medicaid coverage of most noncitizen groups effective October 1, 2026. States must submit SPAs and update eligibility systems by that date. For Members serving immigrant populations, particularly in more urban markets, this could affect census and payer mix.

**Program integrity funding is serious money.** The FY 2027 President's Budget includes \$976 million for the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control program and calls for expanded audits of Medicaid managed care. CMS is mobilizing resources and attention on program integrity across the board.

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## CMS proposes 2028 Medicaid HCBS quality measures

### *CH and ARC*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services proposed a 2028 Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Quality Measure Set, [52-page PDF](#), with publication in the [Federal Register](#). Through the proposal, the federal agency is aiming to give states standardized quality measures for the reporting and monitoring of HCBS services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries.

The **comment period** is only a short 30 days and **due by May 28, 2026**.

### Highlights:

- 23 proposed mandatory measures (including Choosing the Services That Matter to You Composite, Personal Safety & Respect Composite, Transportation to Medical Appointments Composite, LTSS comprehensive assessment/update, measures on community inclusion, safety, person-centered planning, freedom from abuse/neglect, and others).
- 3 proposed voluntary measures (Reassessment after inpatient discharge; Screening/plan to prevent falls; any HCBS CAHPS/NCI/ POM measure not included above).
- Data collection limited to HCBS waiver participants, via HCBS case manager or survey; (see Table 4).
- Per the HCBS Access Rule, implementation of mandatory metrics is scheduled for 2028.

We would appreciate your input! Please review the notice and send any comments or suggested language to us by May 18th.

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## Upcoming Olmstead Commission Meetings

**CH**

May 1 from 1-3 pm CT in the Fort Totten Room at the Capitol.

Discussion topics: Rural Health Transformation Program and Goal #4-Housing.

Join meeting [here](#).

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## Workforce

### AHCA/NCAL Applauds Reintroduction of Bipartisan Legislation to Develop Certified Nursing Assistants

**NF**

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) today praised Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Tim Scott (R-SC) for [reintroducing](#) the *Ensuring Seniors' Access to Quality Care Act*, bipartisan legislation aimed at addressing a nationwide shortage of certified nursing assistants (CNAs).

The bill would allow nursing homes to resume in-house CNA education programs that were suspended once quality standards are met. It also gives Medicare and Medicaid providers access to the National Practitioner Data Bank to conduct background checks and help identify the best candidates. A bipartisan House version, H.R. 7096, sponsored by Representatives Ron Estes (KS-4) and Josh Harder (CA-9), was reintroduced earlier this year. [Issue brief](#).

The bill is one of many pieces of legislation that AHCA/NCAL supports as part of its [Caregivers for Tomorrow](#) initiative.

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## IRS Announces Form 990 Transparency Initiative

### *All Members*

Recently, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and IRS announced a Form 990 transparency initiative that proposes to revise reporting for non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations related to government contracts, government grants, and fiscal sponsorship arrangements. [Read More](#)

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## Insurance

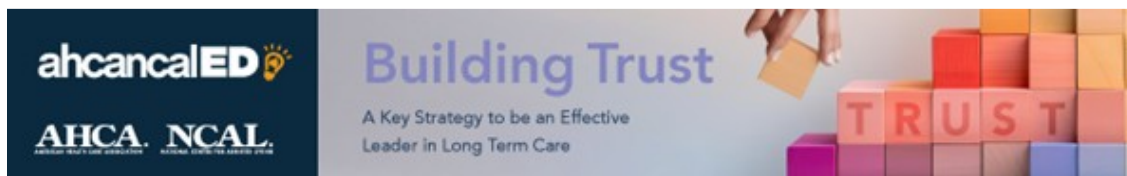
### US health insurers advance measures to standardize prior authorization requirements

#### *All Members*

Last Friday, a group of major health insurers [announced](#) plans to advance efforts to standardize prior authorization requirements as part of an effort to reduce delays in care and administrative burden. Insurers pledge to adopt a standardized approach for providers submitting electronic prior authorization requests for the majority of medical services and reduce the number of services subject to prior authorization by January 1, 2027.

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## More Education Opportunities



## Building trust isn't just a soft skill—it's a strategic necessity

### **All Members**

Use code **BT2026** at checkout to **save \$100** on registration through April 30th!

This online course equips leaders with strategies to build trust within teams and departments, focusing on empathy, logic, and authenticity. Key benefits include:

- Strengthening organizational trust and easing change resistance
- Bridging gaps across generations, gender, race, and ethnicity
- Cultivating psychological safety and shared leadership
- Enhancing staff wellbeing, retention, and resident outcomes

Earn up to **4 NAB-Approved CEs** for administrators and **4 contact hours** for nurses.

**Cost: \$250** for AHCA members | **\$450** for non-members.

[Learn more...](#)

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## View This Free Webinar Discussing IDDSI and Texture Modified Food Guidelines

### **NF**

AHCA/NCAL and Incite Strategic Partners offer a free webinar titled *Utilizing IDDSI's Tools to Avoid Texture Modified Food Mistakes and Citations* which covers how to approach your IDDSI plan. [Read More](#)

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## Interesting Articles

### *All Members*

#### [Dignity-Centered Design for All Mobility Levels](#)

The difference between communities that truly support aging in place and those that don't often comes down to whether mobility was built into the design from the start. [Read More](#)

#### [Avoiding a Water Heater Failure](#)

Senior living and assisted living communities depend on reliable hot water access, not only for comfort but also safety and operational efficiency. [Read More](#)



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