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Four Iowa nursing facilities earn national achievement award for quality

West Des Moines, Iowa — Four Iowa long-term care communities have been honored with the 2025 Silver – Achievement in Quality Award from the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL).

The recipients are:

- Accura HealthCare of Cascade, Cascade
- Accura HealthCare of Ogden, Ogden
- Midlands Living Center LLC, Council Bluffs
- Norwalk Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Norwalk

They are among 209 organizations in 40 states to achieve the Silver distinction this year –the highest number of Silver honorees in the national program’s history.

“These four providers have steadily advanced through increasingly rigorous standards to strengthen the quality of care they deliver,” said Brenda Irlbeck, IHCA vice president of regulatory affairs. “Earning the Silver Award is a significant achievement that reflects not only their operational excellence but their deep, ongoing commitment to the Iowans they serve with compassion and purpose.”

The National Quality Award Program is modeled on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Framework and has three progressive levels: Bronze – Commitment to Quality; Silver – Achievement in Quality; and Gold – Excellence in Quality. Silver recipients build on their Bronze foundations by demonstrating effective, systematic approaches that drive better resident outcomes and organizational performance. Independent, trained examiners review every application.

“We are so proud of these four organizations for reaching this important milestone,” said Kimber Larson, IHCA director of quality improvement. “Achieving the Silver Award reflects a true culture of excellence and a strong commitment to continuous improvement. We celebrate their hard work and dedication to delivering the highest quality care possible.”

Award recipients will be recognized on Sept. 23 at IHCA’s 2025 Convention and Trade Show in Des Moines and during the Elevating Excellence Awards Ceremony at the AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo on Oct. 21 in Las Vegas.

Earlier this summer, Iowa celebrated [45 Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award recipients](#), ranking second in the nation for Bronze-level honors. Today’s Silver recipients advance the state’s reputation as a leader in long-term care quality.

About the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA)

The Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA) represents more than 800 Iowa nursing homes, assisted living programs, independent senior living and residential care facilities, home health and home care providers, and care continuum providers that deliver long-term services and supports to Iowans.

[more]

Additional Resources:

- National Quality Award Program: <https://www.ahcancal.org/Quality/National-Quality-Award-Program/Pages/default.aspx>
- Quality Award Program Fast Facts: https://www.ahcancal.org/Quality/National-Quality-Award-Program/Documents/QA_fastfacts_2020.pdf
- Issue Brief: <https://www.ahcancal.org/Quality/National-Quality-Award-Program/Documents/Quality%20Award%20Issue%20Brief-1.pdf>

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