

# IHCA 2026

## LEGISLATIVE + POLICY AGENDA



### WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS



- **Certified Medication Aide (CMA) Registry** – Establish a statewide certified medication aide (CMA) database to centralize the verification of CMA credentials and facilitate efficient access to certification information for employers.
- **CMA Training Standardization** – Align CMA training requirements across skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities and assisted living programs to ensure consistency across all settings and uniformity in CMA certification practices.
- **CNA Skills Evaluation**
  - Modify the existing certified nursing assistant (CNA) skills evaluation for individuals in a non-traditional CNA program by streamlining the pathway through a virtual option, making CNA certification more efficient and accessible for candidates.
  - Modify the CNA education curriculum by allowing for satisfaction of the skills evaluation requirement through ongoing supervised performance during the course, not a separate evaluation or test.

# HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES



- **Streamline and Improve Elderly Waiver (EW) Process**
  - **SNF to EW Transitions** – Allow initiation of the EW transition process while an individual is still residing in a facility.
  - **In Lieu of Services** – Create an In Lieu of Service process for EW that allows MCOs to provide payments for services such as meals, assisted living services and personal emergency response prior to service plan approval.
  - **Change the Definition of Assisted Living (AL) Service** – Include scheduled visits in the definition, as AL programs must staff assuming an AL service is needed regardless of whether it occurs.
- **AL Social Model** – Advocate for the rights of AL tenants to continue to make personal choices regarding how to live and support state initiatives that promote and enhance the AL social model foundation.

## FUNDING



- **Secure Funding for Elderly Waiver and Home Health (HH) LUPA Rates**
  - **Elderly Waiver** – Secure \$5 million to increase rates specific to services provided under the elderly waiver.
  - **HH LUPA** – Secure \$3 million to increase HH LUPA rates to match the determined 2025 payment rate without budget-neutral factor.