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Iowa Long-Term Care Providers Lead Nation with 60 National Quality Awards

West Des Moines, Iowa – Iowa long-term care providers earned more national quality awards than any other state in the country this year, highlighting Iowa's leadership in senior care and quality improvement.

Sixty Iowa providers received the 2026 Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award from the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), ranking Iowa first in the nation for the number of Bronze-level recipients.

The awards recognize long-term care providers that demonstrate a strong commitment to improving quality of care, resident experience and organizational performance.

"This recognition reflects the dedication Iowa's long-term care providers have to delivering high-quality care and continually improving the lives of the people they serve," said Brenda Irlbeck, vice president of regulatory affairs for the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA). "Having more providers recognized than any other state reflects the hard work happening every day in communities across Iowa."

Iowa's recipients include:

- 43 skilled nursing facilities
- 13 assisted living communities
- 4 organizations offering both levels of care

The Bronze Award is the first of three levels in AHCA/NCAL's [National Quality Award Program](#), a nationally recognized program based on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Framework that has recognized long-term care providers for quality and performance excellence since 1996. This year, 893 providers across the country received the Bronze Award. To earn the recognition, providers must demonstrate a clear mission, strong leadership practices and a commitment to ongoing quality improvement. Recipients are evaluated by trained examiners from across the country. Silver – Achievement in Quality Award recipients will be announced in July

Award recipients will be honored during IHCA's 2026 Convention on Sept. 15, as well as the AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo on Oct. 13 in Boston.

2026 Iowa Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award Recipients

- Accura HealthCare of Ames
- Accura HealthCare of Creston
- Accura HealthCare of Le Mars
- Accura HealthCare of New Hampton
- Accura HealthCare of Shenandoah
- Accura HealthCare of South Des Moines

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- Accura HealthCare of Stanton
- Accura HealthCare of Toledo
- Atlantic Specialty Care
- Bethany Life – Nursing Facility (Story City)
- Bethany Life – Assisted Living (Story City)
- Bethany Lutheran Home/Heights Assisted Living (Council Bluffs)
- Bickford Assisted Living – Marion
- Cedar Falls Health Care Center
- Colonial Manor of Elma
- Corning Specialty Care
- Correctionville Specialty Care
- Creekside, Inc. Grundy Center
- Denison Care Center
- Dunlap Specialty Care
- Elm Springs Assisted Living (Allison)
- Fountains Senior Living (Bettendorf)
- Good Samaritan Society - Algona
- Good Samaritan Society - Estherville
- Good Samaritan Society - Forest City
- Good Samaritan Society - George
- Good Samaritan Society - Ottumwa
- Good Samaritan Society - Villisca
- Grandview Health Care Center (Dayton)
- Green Hills Community (Ames)
- Harmony Cedar Rapids
- Hegg Memorial Health Center (Rock Valley)
- Heritage Care & Rehabilitation Center - Mason City
- Homestead of Knoxville
- Homestead of Mason City
- Homestead of Osceola
- Lantern Park Specialty Care (Coralville)
- Maple Crest Manor (Fayette)
- Mill Valley Care Center (Bellevue)
- Northern Mahaska Specialty Care (Oskaloosa)
- Oakwood Specialty Care (Albia)
- Pennington Square Assisted Living (Monticello)
- Pinicon Senior Living (Anamosa)
- Pleasantview Home (Kalona)
- Ravenwood Specialty Care (Waterloo)
- Regency Park Nursing & Rehab - Jefferson
- Rehabilitation Center of Allison
- Ridgeview Assisted Living - Burlington
- Ruthven Community Care Center
- Southern Hills Specialty Care (Osceola)
- St. Luke's Transitional Care Center (Cedar Rapids)

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- Stonebridge Suites of Le Mars
- Sunrise Villa (Bellevue)
- The Ambassador Sidney
- The Gardens of Cedar Rapids
- The Suites of Western Home Communities (Cedar Falls)
- Wapello Specialty Care
- Wellington Place (Decorah)
- Westview Care Center (Britt)
- Westview of Indianola Care Center

About the Iowa Health Care Association

The Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA) represents more than 800 Iowa long-term care and senior living providers, including nursing homes, assisted living programs, independent senior living and residential care facilities, home health providers, home care providers and care continuum providers. IHCA represents nearly 8 out of 10 nonprofit and for-profit long-term care providers across the state.

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_2025.pdf
- Issue Brief: <https://www.ahcancal.org/Quality/National-Quality-Award-Program/Documents/Quality%20Award%20Issue%20Brief-1.pdf>

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