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Iowa ranks third in nation for national long-term care quality awards

Seventeen Iowa nursing homes and assisted living programs earn national recognition for quality improvement

West Des Moines, Iowa – Iowa continues to rank among the nation's leaders in long-term care quality, earning the third-highest number of national Silver Quality Awards in 2026.

Seventeen Iowa nursing homes and assisted living programs received the 2026 Silver – Achievement in Quality Award from the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), giving Iowa the third-highest number of Silver recipients in the nation this year.

The awards recognize providers that demonstrate measurable improvements in the quality of care they deliver and their commitment to continuously improving the lives of the residents they serve.

"This recognition reflects the commitment Iowa providers have to continually improving care for older Iowans," said Brenda Irlbeck, vice president of regulatory affairs for the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA). "These providers are constantly looking for ways to improve the quality of care and quality of life for the people they serve. Ranking among the top states in the nation is a testament to the dedication of their teams and their commitment to excellence."

The Silver Award is the second of three levels in AHCA/NCAL's National Quality Award Program, one of the nation's most rigorous quality recognition programs for long-term care providers. Established in 1996 and based on the nationally recognized Baldrige Performance Excellence Framework, the program evaluates how organizations improve quality, strengthen operations and achieve better outcomes for the people they serve.

To earn the Silver Award, providers must demonstrate that quality improvement efforts are producing measurable results throughout their organization. Applications undergo an extensive review by trained independent examiners from across the country.

Earlier this summer, Iowa ranked [first in the nation](#) with 57 Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award recipients. With 17 Silver Award recipients, Iowa continues to demonstrate national leadership in quality improvement and long-term care excellence.

The 2026 Iowa Silver – Achievement in Quality Award recipients are:

- Accura HealthCare of Milford
- Bickford Cottage – Fort Dodge
- Bickford Cottage 1 – Sioux City

[more]

- Cedar Ridge Village (West Des Moines)
- Copper Shores Village (Pleasant Hill)
- Deerfield Retirement Community (Urbandale)
- Eiler Senior Living (Clarinda)
- English Valley Nursing Care Center (North English)
- Good Samaritan Society – Manson
- Greenfield Rehabilitation and Health Care Center
- Maple Manor Village (Aplington)
- Rolling Meadows Senior Living (Carroll)
- Spurgeon Manor (Dallas Center)
- State Center Specialty Care
- Terrace Glen Village (Marion)
- Traditions Memory Care of Newton
- University Park Nursing and Rehab (Des Moines)

Award recipients will be recognized during IHCA's 2026 Convention on Sept. 15 and at the AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo on Oct. 13 in Boston.

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

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