AHCA
AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

Next Steps: CMS Nurses for Nursing Homes Program

Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced Nurses for Nursing Homes, a $275 million initiative expected to support more than 4,000 nurses and nursing students nationwide. The campaign aims to strengthen recruitment and retention in qualifying long term care facilities, located in rural communities and areas with greater workforce shortages. The methodology that CMS uses to identify qualifying nursing homes can be located here.

What the Program Offers:

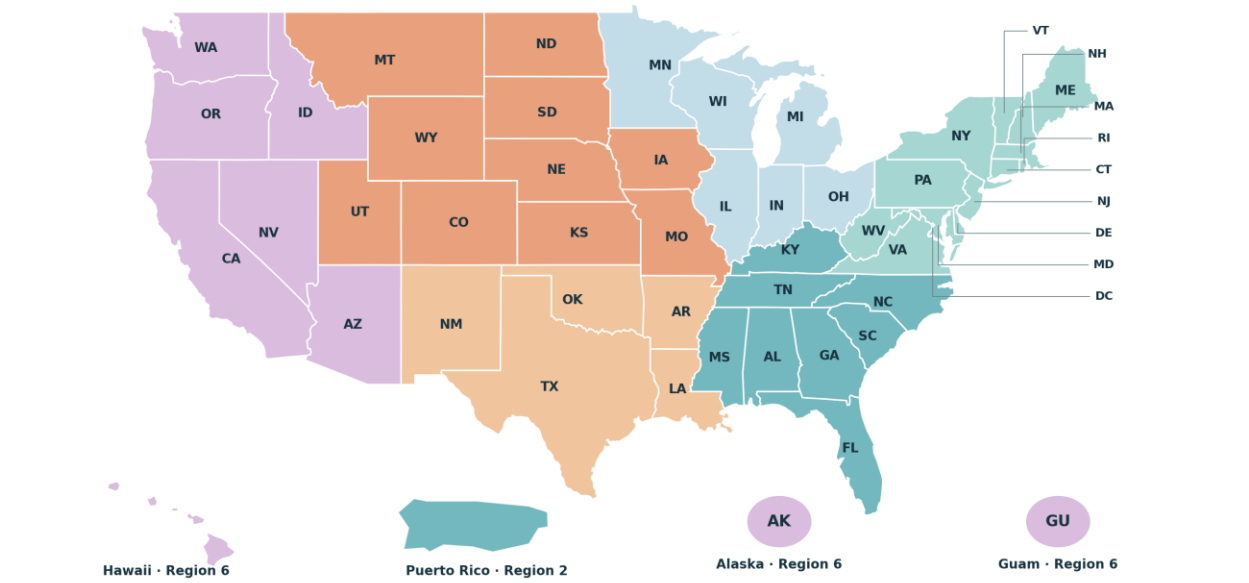
Eligible nurses may receive up to **$40,000 in student loan repayment and/or a $10,000 stipend** in exchange for a three-year service commitment. All 50 states and the District of Columbia are participating, and all rural nursing facilities—plus additional facilities in higher labor-shortage areas—are eligible.

To receive payments, nurses accepted into the initiative must:

- Hold an active RN or LPN/LVN license when employment begins.
- Work at least 30 hours per week at a qualifying nursing home.
- Have eligible student loan debt to qualify for loan repayment. Applicants without student loan debt must have graduated within the past two years to qualify for a stipend.
- Have not worked in a nursing home for at least 60 days before opening an application account and starting an application. During the initiative's first 90 days (October 26, 2026–January 24, 2027), an exception applies to RNs and LPNs/LVNs who began working at an eligible nursing home between July 28 and October 25, 2026.
- Commit to three years of service at an eligible Medicare-certified, Medicaid-certified, or dually certified long term care facility.

Nurses for Nursing Homes

Workforce partner service regions



Island insets are not to scale. Alaska and Guam are shown as labeled keys.

National League for Nursing

N4NH@nln.org | (866) 687-0333

nln.org

Region 1

ME · NH · MA · RI · CT · VT · NY · NJ · DE · PA · MD · DC · VA · WV

Region 2

NC · SC · GA · FL · KY · TN · MS · AL · PR

Region 3

MN · WI · IL · IN · MI · OH

Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence

N4NH@coloradonursingcenter.org

888-687-7311 | 888-NURSE-11

coloradonursingcenter.org

Region 4

NM · TX · OK · AR · LA

Region 5

MO · IA · NE · KS · CO · UT · WY · MT · ND · SD

Region 6

WA · OR · ID · NV · CA · AZ · HI · AK · GU

Service assignments and contacts supplied by the member organization. Map boundaries: PublicaMundi US states GeoJSON.

Next Steps for Nursing Homes:

1. Confirm eligibility and assign a lead. Ask HR or your recruitment lead to verify that your nursing home qualifies through the CMS program website or workforce partner.
2. Contact your workforce partner (see above to identify your service region) to confirm how to submit your vacancy information. Contact information for each workforce partner is below:
    a. National League for Nursing – N4NH@nln.org (866) 687-0333
    b. Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence – N4NH@coloradonursingcenter.org (888) 687-7311
3. Make openings easy to act on. Have the facility name, location, role, hours, hiring contact, and direct application link ready. If the workforce partner has a required form, ensure information is provided in the requested format.
    a. Confirm with your workforce partner how you should communicate when vacancies are filled.
4. Share with prospective applicants. Send the CMS link to local nursing schools, graduating classes, and eligible recruits. Explain that candidates apply to the facility for a job and separately to the Nurses for Nursing Homes program for benefits. Use may qualify for up to $50,000 depending on eligibility and avoid promising an award as the workforce partner will make such determination.

Help candidates check requirements before starting:

1. Direct applicants to the current CMS eligibility screening and FAQ.

- Key requirements include an active RN or LPN/LVN license, qualifying employment averaging at least 30 hours weekly, and a three-year service commitment.
- Eligible debt is required for loan repayment; applicants without eligible debt must have graduated within the past two years to qualify for the stipend.

2. Check employment timing eligibility early.

- The FAQ generally excludes nurses who worked in a nursing home in the 60 days before opening an application account. A launch exception runs October 26, 2026–January 24, 2027, for eligible nurses who began work July 28–October 25, 2026. Confirm eligibility with the workforce partner.

3. Applicants should prepare degree and license details, proof of employment, and loan documentation if requesting repayment.

4. Awards depend on available state funding; encourage timely applications.

- Students may begin an application before graduation.
- Payments are taxable, and taxes are not withheld.

Contacts and Resources

CMS contact: nursesfornursinghomes@cms.hhs.gov

For AHCA support, please email any questions to: regulatory@ahca.org.

Resources:

CMS Announcement

CMS Website: Nurses for Nursing Homes

CMS Nursing Home Staffing Campaign Overview Website

CMS List of Qualifying Nursing Homes

CMS Nurses for Nursing Homes Qualifying Nursing Home Methodology

CMS Frequently Asked Questions