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**ACHC Expands Assisted Living Accreditation Nationwide
Following Positive North Carolina Pilot Program**

Cary, N.C. (Dec. 2, 2025) – The Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) today announced the national availability of its Assisted Living (AL) Accreditation program and Distinction in Assisted Living Outcomes following the completion of a three-year, state-funded pilot in North Carolina. The initiative, supported by investment from the state of North Carolina and evaluated by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), engaged 113 participating communities and established “promising indicators” of quality improvement among adult care homes and assisted living communities pursuing accreditation.

“This pilot gave us a unique opportunity to partner with the state of North Carolina to collect data on assisted living accreditation with an academic partner,” said José Domingos, President & CEO of ACHC. “The findings point to meaningful benefits for communities that pursue accreditation. We’re excited to bring ACHC Accreditation to these providers nationwide.”

UNC researchers from the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research tracked 31 indicators across resident outcomes, medication safety, person-centered practices and staffing in two cohorts: an accreditation-eligible group and a control group. Results varied but researchers cited notable trends favorable to those communities in the accreditation group. The evaluation also noted statistically significant differences favoring accredited providers in areas related to medication errors and workforce turnover.

“While the study context introduced some limitations, we observed several promising indicators among communities engaged in the accreditation process,” said Dr. Sheryl Zimmerman, Distinguished Professor at UNC and principal investigator. “The findings highlight meaningful trends, particularly in areas such as medication management and workforce stability, that suggest accreditation can play an important role in supporting quality improvement.”

The pilot was the result of strong engagement from North Carolina’s senior living community, associations, and other stakeholders.

“Quality improvement is a priority across our sector, and this pilot helped elevate conversations around workforce development, training and consistency in care,” said Jeff Horton, Executive Director of the North Carolina Senior Living Association. “Accreditation provides a structured path forward for providers who want to strengthen operations and quality outcomes.”

Frances Messer, President & CEO of the North Carolina Assisted Living Association, added: “Our members value tools that simplify regulatory compliance, ensure consistent interpretation of requirements, and improve quality of care. Familiarity with the accreditation standards and process encouraged reflection and improvement, even before communities completed their surveys.”

ACHC’s Assisted Living Accreditation program is now available nationwide, offering providers a clear, practical framework focused on operational excellence, delivery and documentation of services, continuous quality improvement, and risk management. The program incorporates insights gained during the pilot, along with training resources, survey preparation tools, and ongoing quality support for participating communities.

“Accreditation brings focus, structure, and accountability to daily operations,” Domingos said. “We’re proud to partner with assisted living communities across the country to improve quality and strengthen quality of life for residents.”

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About ACHC

Accreditation leader ACHC is a nonprofit with over 35 years of experience promoting safe, quality patient care. ACHC develops solutions trusted by healthcare providers nationwide and is committed to offering exceptional, personalized service, and a customized, collaborative accreditation experience tailored to individual needs. ACHC focuses on giving providers a positive, educational experience that continually enhances quality of care and business efficiencies.

Learn more about accreditation options from ACHC. For information on programs and accreditation pricing, please email customerservice@achc.org, call (855) 937-2242 or visit www.achc.org.