

North Carolina's Adult Care Home (Assisted Living) Accreditation Pilot Program

In 2021, the North Carolina Legislature approved the [Adult Care Home Accreditation Pilot Program](#). The legislature provided funds for up to 150 assisted living communities to participate in this program, which will evaluate the effectiveness of accreditation. **Assisted living communities are being actively solicited to participate, and their participation is free.**

Accreditation indicates that an organization meets a defined standard of quality based on external review. Simply stated, it is a quality assurance and performance improvement process, and in hospitals and other settings, evidence indicates that compliance with accreditation standards leads to improved care. For the Adult Care Home Accreditation Pilot Program, accreditation indicates that assisted living communities meet standards set by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC), which also accredits acute care hospitals, home health agencies, hospice programs, and other organizations. The Pilot Program is being evaluated by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC).

This project is important to all assisted living communities; it is evaluating the effectiveness of an accreditation process to improve care and outcomes, and would allow communities to maintain ongoing licensure and be exempt from routine inspections if they meet accreditation standards and requirements.

What's Involved?

UNC staff will contact eligible assisted living communities across the state to invite their participation in the two-year evaluation. In advance, communities may indicate their interest by logging onto this [website](#).

- One-half of the invited communities will be randomly selected to participate in the accreditation process at no charge (a \$13,450 value); experts from ACHC will work with the communities to help them create quality assurance/performance improvement plans with the goal of improving care and outcomes.
- The other half of communities will serve as a comparison group and be provided reduced fees for accreditation at a later date.
- All communities will be paid to compile benchmark information on a regular basis.
- All information will be strictly confidential, overseen by the rigorous procedures of UNC.

Why Participate?

The only way to assure a valid evaluation of the accreditation process is to have broad representation of all assisted living communities. Communities that are randomized to participate in either the accreditation group or the comparison group are equally as important in guiding the future of accreditation and quality in assisted living. All communities will be provided a certificate and material they can share about their contribution to this statewide effort.

Endorsements:

Numerous organizations endorse this project, including the North Carolina Senior Living Association and the North Carolina Assisted Living Association. Representatives from these organizations can be contacted through the [website](#).