

Alliance Policy Agenda



INTRODUCTION

The National Alliance for Care at Home (the Alliance) is the unified voice for providers delivering high-quality, person-centered healthcare to millions of individuals, wherever they call home. Formed through the joint affiliation of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), the Alliance is dedicated to advancing policies that support care in the home for millions of older adults, individuals with disabilities, persons with both chronic and serious illnesses as well as dying Americans who depend on those supports. Our mission is to serve as the leading authority to transform care delivery in the home and serve as “an inclusive thought leader, advocate, educator, and convener and the unifying voice for those providing and receiving healthcare through all stages of life.” The Alliance exists to support and represent our members. As a member-driven organization, our mission and vision are achieved through serving and following the guidance of our members, always placing their needs first.

With this inaugural policy agenda, the Alliance sets a bold course to advocate for payment reforms, address workforce shortages, and enhance care quality and access across the continuum of care in the home, including home health care, hospice care, palliative care, home care, Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS), and pediatric serious illness and hospice care. Our collective strength and expertise allow us to champion policies that empower providers and uplift the communities they serve. Together, we will continue to lead, innovate, and drive forward a vision of sustainable, accessible and equitable high-quality healthcare in the home.

Building on both NAHC and NHPCO’s past successes and priorities, the Alliance’s 2025-2026 Policy Agenda carves a new path forward and will be achieved through the following advocacy pillars:

Legislative Advocacy The Alliance is committed to shaping federal policy through engagement with Congress to advance laws that support patient-centered care, while defending against harmful policies that may undermine quality, sustainability, or access to care in the home.	Media Advocacy The Alliance leverages strategic communications and crafts compelling narratives to amplify its key legislative and policy objectives. Through proactive media engagement, it counters misinformation, highlights the value of care in the home, and ensures its members’ voices and priorities are prominently represented	Administrative and Regulatory Advocacy The Alliance engages with federal agencies to drive positive regulatory changes and ensure new and existing regulations facilitate sustainability and effective care delivery. This will include advocacy against administrative burdens and policies that could impair provider operations and limit patient access to care in the home, wherever that may be.
Judicial Advocacy The Alliance may take action through the courts to uphold the interests of our membership and protect against policies and regulations that disrupt care quality, sustainability, or access.	Field Advocacy The Alliance empowers our members to advocate at the federal level, both promoting supportive policies and amplifying Alliance advocacy efforts to counteract federal legislation or regulations that could impair the effective and sustainable delivery of care in the home. Through grasstops and grassroots mobilization, we ensure a unified voice for our collective mission.	Coalition and Partnership Advocacy The Alliance builds strong partnerships and coalitions with like-minded organizations, patient advocacy groups, and community leaders to amplify shared priorities. By uniting diverse voices, the Alliance strengthens its impact on legislative, regulatory, and public policy initiatives.

The Alliance will leverage these pillars to achieve our policy agenda by influencing legislation, shaping regulations, and engaging the courts when necessary. We will collaborate closely with our members, state associations, national healthcare organizations, Congress, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and other key stakeholders to advance our policy priorities and achieve our collective vision for the future of care in the home.

The following includes a list of our policy priorities for 2025-2026. For more information, visit **the National Alliance for Care at Home website**.

We are stronger
together.

ALLIANCE POLICY GOALS

As the unified voice of providers caring for Americans in the home, we recognize there are core goals that drive the development of policy and advocacy priorities. These goals transcend the specific service lines of the Alliance membership. At the same time, unique and specific policy actions are focused on issues present in those individual programs. In doing so, we address key challenges and priorities within and across our various members.

- **Better Access to Care at Home** — Expanding access to care in the home is essential to improving health outcomes, enhancing patient independence, and reducing healthcare costs. Recent policy trends have been at odds with these objectives. Patients and families continue to seek options to receive care in the home while recent government actions have reduced availability and project to limit options. We support policies that address barriers to health care at home including those related to workforce shortages, inadequate payment rates, administrative roadblocks, and out-of-date benefit design. Congress, CMS, and other regulators need to act to advance care in the home, not erect barriers.
- **Improved Quality and Safety in Care at Home** — Rigorous quality and safety protocols are foundational to ensuring positive outcomes and high patient and caregiver satisfaction. Recent reports and government investigations have highlighted problematic practices in care in the home. The Alliance stands for patient-centered, high-quality care that achieves optimal patient outcomes combined with essential patient and caregiver safety. These goals are achieved through appropriate, targeted action by quality-of-care oversight authorities including strengthened participation in quality reporting programs and deliberate expansion of quality reporting data and program measures.
- **An End to Fraud and Exploitation in the Care at Home Community** — Eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse in the care-at-home community is essential to protecting vulnerable individuals and ensuring trust in home-based services. Precise targeting of problematic areas and increased oversight of home care providers by oversight bodies can safeguard patients and caregivers alike along with the programs that support health care at home services.

HOME HEALTH CARE

Payment Reforms and Financial Stability

- Improve Medicare home health payment rates and advocate for the elimination of CMS's Medicare rate cuts under the Patient-Driven Groupings Model (PDGM) to ensure sustainability for home health agencies.
- Ensure adequate reimbursement from Medicare Advantage (MA) plans for home health services, and push for increased MA regulatory oversight to adopt fair payment practices, including timely and accurate reimbursement and reduced administrative burden.
- Push for legislative and regulatory interventions to allow the permanent inclusion of telehealth services under the Medicare home health benefit.
- Support the implementation of a fair and equitable Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) system that accounts for social determinants of health (SDOH) and complex patient needs.
- Promote telehealth payment to optimize care delivery and access for underserved populations, including rural areas, emphasizing its role in increasing access.
- Create new Medicare payment policies that account for the challenges of providing home-based care in a rural environment such as a more limited workforce, fewer patients seen each day, more miles traveled, challenges that are being exacerbated by extreme weather events.

Workforce Development and Innovation

- Address workforce shortages by advocating for state and federal investment into funding for recruitment, retention, and training of home health professionals.
- Support legislation to develop comprehensive education programs for home health caregivers, nurses, and aides.
- Support federal grants and scholarships for individuals pursuing careers in home health care.

Advancing Quality and Health Equity

- Advocate for policies that reduce disparities in home health care services without imposing unnecessary administrative burdens on providers.
- Push for federal incentives and investments to enable home health providers to better address barriers to care, including cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic factors and in traditionally underserved communities.

Emergency and Cybersecurity Preparedness

- Advocate for resources and training that enable home health agencies to better prepare for and respond effectively to pandemics and natural disasters.
- Promote policies that provide financial relief to home health agencies affected by natural disasters or emergencies.
- Support federal incentives and investments to improve home health agencies' cybersecurity readiness and response capabilities.

HOSPICE CARE

Benefit Protection and Modernization

- Secure an adequate level of reimbursement for hospice services to ensure access to high-quality hospice services and oppose any payment cuts or structural changes that could negatively impact patient access to end-of-life care.
- Support legislative action and regulatory demonstrations to modernize the benefit encompassing initiatives such as in-home respite care options, payment for high-intensity palliative care services, and allowances for hospice care and curative treatments simultaneously.

Program Integrity

- Pursue legislative and regulatory action to protect the Medicare Hospice benefit, ensuring appropriate access and maintaining savings to the Medicare program.

Advancing Quality and Health Equity

- Support the development of meaningful, evidence-based quality measures in without imposing unnecessary burdens on providers.
- Remove systemic barriers to high-quality hospice care for racial and ethnic minorities
- Modify or delay the Hospice Special Focus Program (SFP) to ensure it accurately identifies hospices most in need of oversight and supports quality improvement efforts.

Workforce and Access Initiatives

- Emphasize the role of telehealth and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in expanding access, improving efficiency, and mitigating workforce shortages, especially in rural and underserved areas.
- Extend and make permanent the use of telehealth for the hospice face-to-face (F2F) encounter, to increase access and address workforce challenges, particularly in rural and traditionally underserved communities.
- Support the expansion of education, training, and career development opportunities in hospice care and support efforts to permit professionals to perform at the top of their licensure.
- Promote diversity in the hospice workforce to better reflect and serve varied patient populations.
- Advocate for federal and state policies that increase access to hospice services for Veterans, ensuring care is tailored to their unique needs and circumstances.

Emergency and Cybersecurity Preparedness

- Advocate for enhanced bereavement services for communities affected by disasters or mass casualty incidents.
- Secure funding and training to equip hospices with the tools necessary for effective emergency planning and response.

PALLIATIVE CARE

Community-Based Palliative Care Benefit Creation and Integration

- Pursue legislative action to establish a permanent, sustainable community-based palliative care benefit under Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans' Health.
- Promote the development of a consistent standard for how palliative care is delivered to ensure benchmarks and outcomes are comparable across settings of care.
- Push for the inclusion of palliative care in value-based payment models to both ensure services are adequately compensated and reimbursement models cover the comprehensive scope of an interdisciplinary palliative care team and services.
- Support policies that support the integration of palliative care from diagnosis throughout the illness trajectory.
- Support demonstration projects that incorporate palliative care in serious illness care delivery and models that evaluate the effectiveness of concurrent care to improve patient outcomes.

Workforce Initiatives

- Support federal initiatives to create or expand education and training programs for palliative care professionals, including loan forgiveness, scholarships, and other incentives to attract and retain interdisciplinary professionals in the field.

Improving Access and Advancing Equity

- Identify and remove structural barriers to accessing palliative care, focusing on underserved communities and ensuring culturally appropriate outreach and education.
- Expand telehealth flexibilities to facilitate access to specialist palliative care, particularly in rural or traditionally underserved areas.

HOME CARE

Access to Services

- Support legislation that provides funding, tax incentives, or other mechanisms to help offset the cost of care at home for families, such as the Credit for Caring Act and the HSA Modernization Act.
- Reduce administrative and regulatory burdens through collaboration with governmental agencies, ensuring that families can more easily navigate access to home care services.

Reducing Burden and Promoting Provider Viability

- Advocate for regulatory frameworks that recognize the unique operational realities of home care by engaging with governmental agencies to ensure that new regulations are practical, feasible, and supportive of home care providers' needs.
- Foster strategic engagement with key stakeholders to identify and address emergent legislative and regulatory threats and opportunities, ensuring the voice of home care providers is represented in critical policy discussions.

Workforce Development and Immigration Reforms

- Secure governmental incentives and funding to support the training, recruitment, and retention of home care workers, including specific programs for immigrant workers and enhanced healthcare visa pathways.
- Work with governmental agencies to ensure safe working conditions for home care workers and develop tools for safeguarding employees from workplace violence or abuse.
- Promote the positive recognition of home care workers as a vital component of our healthcare system.

PEDIATRIC CARE

Access and Quality of Care

- Secure an adequate level of reimbursement for services to ensure access to high-quality services throughout the country, including mental and behavioral health services for children and adolescents in the home setting.
- Support policies to ensure access to high-quality, comprehensive pediatric care and transitions across all care provided in the home.
- Promote telehealth flexibilities to optimize care delivery and access for pediatric populations in the home setting, particularly in rural and traditionally underserved areas.
- Advocate for better quantitative data to understand and evaluate transitions between hospital and home services throughout the continuum of care.

Workforce and Professional Development

- Promote initiatives to expand the workforce of pediatric-focused providers, including advanced practice providers (APPs), child life specialist, and social workers, to facilitate increased access for pediatric patients in the home.
- Support federal initiatives and investments to promote pediatric nursing workforce development programs and support professional advancement to retain pediatric-focused clinicians.
- Eliminate the prohibition on payment made under Medicaid programs to relatives, legally responsible individuals, and legal guardians for caregiving.

MEDICAID HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

Program Expansion and Funding

- Oppose restrictions on Medicaid, that could threaten eligibility, access to care, and provider payments for home care services in Medicaid.
- Advocate for establishing HCBS as a mandatory and uniform program under Medicaid to ensure it receives adequate federal and state funding.
- Push for legislation requiring regular assessments of Medicaid payment rates and methodologies by states to ensure they are reasonable and sufficient to support high-quality care, including direct payment for mileage and travel time to ensure rural access.
- Repeal the restrictive 80-20 proposed rule that would require states to assure that 80% of Medicaid payments for home health aide, homemaker, and personal care services be passed through to direct care workers, which does not align with the operational realities of home care providers.
- Push for legislative action to ensure home care reimbursement supports a living wage for caregiving staff.
- Protect against Medicaid-rate setting cuts or structural changes that could reduce access to HCBS services.

Electronic Visit Verification and Administrative Reforms

- Modify existing Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) requirements to reduce administrative burdens and exempt Medicaid home health services from these mandates.

- Push for regulatory action to implement nationwide EVV interoperability standards through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.
- Advocate for the publication of a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report to evaluate the implementation of the CURES Act requirements, including the determination of whether state processes were “minimally burdensome” to providers as required by law and whether the policy led to any cost savings.

Access to Care and Workforce

- Support expansion of Medicaid agency reporting requirements that assess whether there are sufficient providers to serve Medicaid eligible homecare clients.
- Require additional state remediation when access deficiencies are identified.
- Make permanent state initiatives to expand the HCBS workforce, including training activities, recruitment and retention bonuses, and outreach and education campaigns.
- Support reasonable expansion of self-direction that protects participant choice, health, and welfare while expanding the workforce by allowing for consumer-selected providers, including family-members.



National Alliance
for Care at Home

To learn more about the National Alliance for Care at Home's 2025-2026 Policy Agenda and get involved, please visit AllianceForCareAtHome.org.