



The National

CONSUMER VOICE

for Quality Long-Term Care

Q&A Session: Financial Transparency in Nursing Homes Project

January 28, 2024

About the Consumer Voice

The leading national voice representing consumers in issues related to long-term care

- ▶ **Advocate for public policies** that support quality of care and quality of life responsive to consumers' needs in all long-term care settings.
- ▶ **Empower and educate** consumers and families with the knowledge and tools they need to advocate for themselves.
- ▶ **Train and support** individuals and groups that empower and advocate for consumers of long-term care.
- ▶ **Promote the critical role** of direct-care workers and best practices in quality care delivery.

Welcome

- ▶ The program is being **recorded**.
- ▶ Use the **Q&A feature** for questions for the speakers.
- ▶ Use the **chat feature** to submit comments or respond to questions from speakers or other attendees.
- ▶ Please complete the **evaluation** questionnaire when the webinar is over.
- ▶ Links to **resources** will be posted in the chat box and will be posted to the Consumer Voice website – theconsumervoice.org.

About the Project and How to Apply



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Advocating to Improve Transparency and Accountability
in Nursing Home Finances and Ownership Project

Overview:

For many nursing home residents, the quality of care they receive leaves much to be desired. Research, data, and investigative reports show that nursing homes do not have enough staff to meet the needs of its residents. Additionally, residents, families, advocates, and others bemoan the lack of, and low quality, food and supplies provided. Yet, nursing homes receive each year nearly \$100 billion from Medicare and Medicaid alone. Nursing home owners and operators, however, claim lack of resources and inadequate reimbursements for why they cannot hire more staff or provide better care and resources. Where does the money go?

For decades, advocates have called on federal and state governments to increase scrutiny on how nursing homes spend Medicare and Medicaid dollars. With the use of related party transactions, complex ownership structures, and other financial tricks, many nursing homes have become adept at hiding how they spend public dollars. At the same time, federal and state governments have not taken steps to increase disclosure requirements, resulting in little to no accountability for nursing home owners and operators. These conditions have resulted in the increased involvement of private equity investors in the nursing home industry.

Transparency is needed to ascertain the true cost of providing high-quality care to residents. Thousands of nursing homes are currently providing high-quality care with adequate staffing. Why are some homes able to provide adequate staff while others are not?

Subsequent to the COVID-19 pandemic and its disparate and devastating impact on nursing home residents, many state governments began to take action, requiring increased disclosure on Medicaid cost reports, even requiring that a portion of every dollar paid to nursing homes go towards direct care. Advocates in states like California, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have fought hard to have state legislatures pass laws requiring increased scrutiny of Medicaid spending or have helped draft regulations. Other states have shown an interest in the issue, as well.

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- ▶ View the call for proposals:
https://theconsumervoice.org/uploads/files/actions-and-news-updates/AV_RFP.pdf
- ▶ [Apply through the application form»](#)
- ▶ Applications are due **March 15, 2024**



Questions



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