



October 2026

Lawmakers Move to Raise the Personal Needs Allowance and Asset Limit for Nursing Home Residents on Medicaid

For the first time in decades, Wyoming lawmakers are taking steps to update the financial limits placed on nursing home residents who rely on Medicaid. This is a long-overdue change, and it is welcome news for our residents, their families and our member facilities.

At its meeting last week, the Legislature's Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee voted to have a bill drafted that would:

- Double the personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$100 a month. This is the amount a Medicaid resident may keep each month for personal items, and it has not changed since 2001.
- Raise the Medicaid asset limit from \$2,000 to \$5,000. This limit does not count items like a primary home or vehicle, and it has not been updated since 1989.

The estimated cost to the state is about \$1.3 million a year.

WLTCOA President Eric Boley testified in support of the bill. He told the committee that the outdated limits are a significant issue for both nursing homes and the residents they serve. He pointed out that about 70% of Wyoming's nursing home residents are Medicaid recipients, so these limits affect the majority of people in our members' care. Boley said the changes would bring the limits in line with decades of inflation and ease the administrative burden that facilities carry in helping residents stay within them.

Fifty dollars a month doesn't stretch far today. Wyoming Long-Term Care Ombudsman Patricia Hall told the committee that her office hears from residents who struggle to afford basic necessities such as socks, vitamins, prescription glasses and cellphone plans. Those are small things, but they matter a great deal to a resident's dignity and quality of life.

The asset limit causes its own problems. When the limit is this low, seniors are forced to spend down nearly all of their savings, and keeping residents under the cap takes careful tracking by families and facility staff. Medicaid Division Administrator Jesse Springer told the committee that the \$2,000 figure involves complicated calculations, and that residents don't necessarily have that much cash on hand.

This committee action follows WLTCOA's advocacy earlier in the interim. In March, the association asked lawmakers to examine the \$2,000 asset limit. We noted that it has never been adjusted for inflation and falls well below the limits in peer states, many of which have raised theirs to between \$3,000 and \$5,000. It's encouraging to see the committee act on it.

The committee will review the draft bill at its November meeting. If the committee approves it, the bill will go into the 2027 General Session as a committee bill. The session begins January 12.

How you can help

- Share your stories. Specific examples from your residents and staff are what make the strongest case to lawmakers. Examples include residents going without basic items, or families struggling with the spend-down process.
- Talk with your legislators before the session about what these limits mean for residents in your community.
- Watch for WLTCAs advocacy alerts as the bill moves forward.

Feedback Needed for the CNA Workforce Focus Group!

The University of Wyoming Center on Aging is hosting a CNA Workforce Focus Group. As we look at ways to strengthen Wyoming's CNA workforce, we would really value hearing from our healthcare partners across the state. We know you see firsthand both the challenges and opportunities facing the CNA workforce, and we'd like this focus group to be an opportunity to hear directly from you.

We'd especially like to hear your thoughts about workforce challenges, training needs and expectations, recruitment and retention, and what could better support both CNAs and the organizations that employ them.

Please see the attached flyer for additional information and scan the QR code to RSVP on October 14th . You can join us in person at LCCC or by Zoom, and lunch will be provided for those attending in person.

We hope you can join us and be part of the conversation. Your perspective would be greatly appreciated!

CNA WORKFORCE FOCUS GROUP

Your input. Stronger workforce. Better care.



HYBRID EVENT

Join Online or Attend In Person



Join local healthcare partners to share insights and help shape CNA training and workforce solutions in our community.



DATE

Wednesday, October 14



TIME

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



LOCATION

LCCC Cheyenne Campus
CCC Room 178/179



ATTENDANCE OPTIONS

- ✓ In Person
- ✓ Online



LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

for those attending in person.

SCAN TO RSVP



TOGETHER,

*we strengthen healthcare
and our community.*



WYOMING LONG TERM CARE ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Events

2027

JAN

12

TUESDAY

General Session of the Wyoming Legislature Begins

Cheyenne, Wyoming

MAY

19-20

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY

WyLTC Spring Meeting

Riverton, Wyoming

SEPT

1-2

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY

WHA/WyLTC Annual Meeting

Casper, Wyoming

Registration details and agendas to come.



Wyoming Long Term Care Association | 2005 Warren Ave | Cheyenne, WY 82001-3725 US

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