

News Briefs

September 19, 2025

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**Wyoming
Hospital
Association**

In This Issue

- Critical Medicare Support for Rural Hospitals at Risk
- DZA 2025 CAH Seminar
- 2025 Golf Tournament
- Webinar on Digital Staffing
- Upcoming Events
- WHA PAC Goal

Critical Medicare Support for Rural Hospitals at Risk: Congressional Action Needed

Rural hospitals across the United States are facing an urgent financial crisis as two vital Medicare payment programs are set to expire on September 30, 2025, without immediate congressional intervention. The enhanced Low-Volume Adjustment (LVA) and Medicare-Dependent Hospital (MDH) programs provide essential financial support that helps rural and geographically isolated hospitals maintain operations and serve their communities.

Legislative Solutions on the Table

Congress has two opportunities to address this critical need through bipartisan legislation currently under consideration:

The Rural Hospital Support Act (S. 335) in the Senate would make the LVA and MDH programs permanent, providing long-term stability for rural hospitals. Additionally, the bill would provide an additional base year for Medicare-Dependent Hospitals and Sole Community Hospitals to calculate payments, potentially increasing support for many facilities.

The Assistance for Rural Community Hospitals (ARCH) Act (H.R. 1805) in the House would extend the enhanced LVA and MDH programs for five years, providing crucial breathing room for rural hospitals while longer-term solutions are developed.

Understanding the Programs at Risk

Low-Volume Adjustment (LVA) provides additional Medicare payments to hospitals that treat fewer patients, recognizing that lower patient volumes result in higher per-patient costs due to fixed overhead expenses that must be spread across fewer cases. This program is particularly vital for small rural hospitals that serve scattered populations.

Medicare-Dependent Hospitals (MDHs) receive enhanced payments as facilities that serve

populations with high Medicare utilization rates. These hospitals, often located in rural areas with aging populations, depend heavily on Medicare reimbursement to maintain financial viability. Sole Community Hospitals (SCHs), while not facing immediate expiration, also benefit from the broader rural hospital support framework and would gain additional support under the proposed Senate legislation.

Take Action Now

Time is running out for congressional action before the September 30 deadline. Healthcare advocates, hospital administrators, and community members must contact their representatives immediately to ensure these vital programs continue.

Contact your senators and ask them to cosponsor the Rural Hospital Support Act (S. 335). Contact your House representatives and ask them to cosponsor the Assistance for Rural Community Hospitals Act (H.R. 1805). Most importantly, request that lawmakers include these rural hospital extenders in any "must-pass" legislation moving through Congress before the end of the month.

The Stakes Are Clear

Without immediate action, rural communities across America will face the loss of essential healthcare services. Hospital closures would force residents to travel significant distances for emergency care, surgical procedures, and other critical medical services. The ripple effects would extend beyond healthcare, impacting local economies and quality of life in rural areas.

The data is clear, the need is urgent, and the solutions are ready for congressional approval. What's needed now is the political will to act before it's too late for America's rural hospitals and the communities they serve.



DZA 2025 CAH Seminar: Your Gateway to Critical Access Hospital Excellence

The healthcare industry's most anticipated educational gathering is returning to Spokane, Washington this October! DZA's three-day CAH Seminar promises to get attendees up to speed on all the latest topics facing the CAH industry and beyond, making it an essential event for Critical Access Hospital professionals nationwide.

Event Details at a Glance

When: October 2025 (Specific dates TBA)

Where: Spokane Convention Center, 334 West Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA

Format: In-person with live Zoom broadcast option available

Schedule Overview:

- Monday: 1:00pm-5:00pm (Check-in begins at 12:00pm)
- Tuesday: 8:00am-5:00pm
- Wednesday: 8:00am-12:00pm
-

Why This Seminar Matters

This highly anticipated three-day event focuses on the critical issues facing the CAH industry, offering participants invaluable insights into the complex world of Critical Access Hospital operations. With DZA's proven track record in helping CAHs optimize their reimbursement, prepare timely and accurate cost reports, and provide assurance services, attendees can expect cutting-edge expertise from industry leaders.

What Makes This Event Special

Educational Excellence

- Up to 16 CPE Credits Available: Expert-led sessions on key trends and developments ensure

- participants stay current with industry standards and regulations
- Comprehensive Coverage: Three days packed with information unique to CAH reimbursement and financial reporting tailored specifically for finance teams
-

Networking Opportunities

Unparalleled networking opportunities with peers and industry leaders create lasting professional connections and knowledge-sharing experiences that extend well beyond the seminar itself.

Flexible Attendance Options

Understanding the demanding schedules of healthcare professionals, those who can't join in-person can tune in to the live broadcast over Zoom, ensuring accessibility for participants nationwide.

[More information can be found here](#)

WHA Golf Tournament Tees Off for Healthcare

September 2, the Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) hosted its annual golf tournament at the scenic Jacoby Golf Course in Laramie, bringing together healthcare professionals, community partners, and supporters for an afternoon of networking and fundraising. The tournament featured an afternoon shotgun start, allowing participants to enjoy ideal September weather while supporting Wyoming's healthcare community. The event served as both a fundraising opportunity and a chance for healthcare professionals from across the state to connect in a relaxed setting.

The Wyoming Hospital Association represents Wyoming hospitals as their voice before legislative and regulatory bodies at local, state, regional, and national levels. Proceeds from the golf tournament help support the organization's advocacy efforts, educational programs, and member services that benefit hospitals throughout the state.

The 2025 WHA Golf Tournament concluded with an exciting finish as the team of Kelly Casey, Eric Boley, Luke Senden, and Kirby Johnson claimed the championship title. The winning foursome delivered exceptional teamwork and skill throughout what proved to be a competitive and memorable day on the links.

The tournament, which has become a signature event for the WHA community, featured teams from across the organization competing for the championship. The September tournament continues the WHA's tradition of bringing together golf enthusiasts for a day of friendly competition and community building. The event not only celebrates athletic achievement but also strengthens the bonds within the WHA membership.



Kirby Johnson, Luke Senden, Eric Boley and Kelly Casey

Medical Solutions Webinar on Digital Staffing Revolution

Join us for an exclusive webinar on September 29th from 12–1 p.m. CST:

"The Digital Staffing Revolution: How Technology is Transforming Staffing as We Know It"
Technology is transforming healthcare staffing. Join endorsed partner, Medical Solutions, for an exclusive webinar featuring Karin Selfors-Thomann, Chief Client Officer at Medical Solutions. Karin will share how tech-enabled solutions are shaping the future of workforce management. Discover innovative tools that strengthen flex work programs, enhance recruitment and retention, and prepare your organization for what's ahead in the industry.

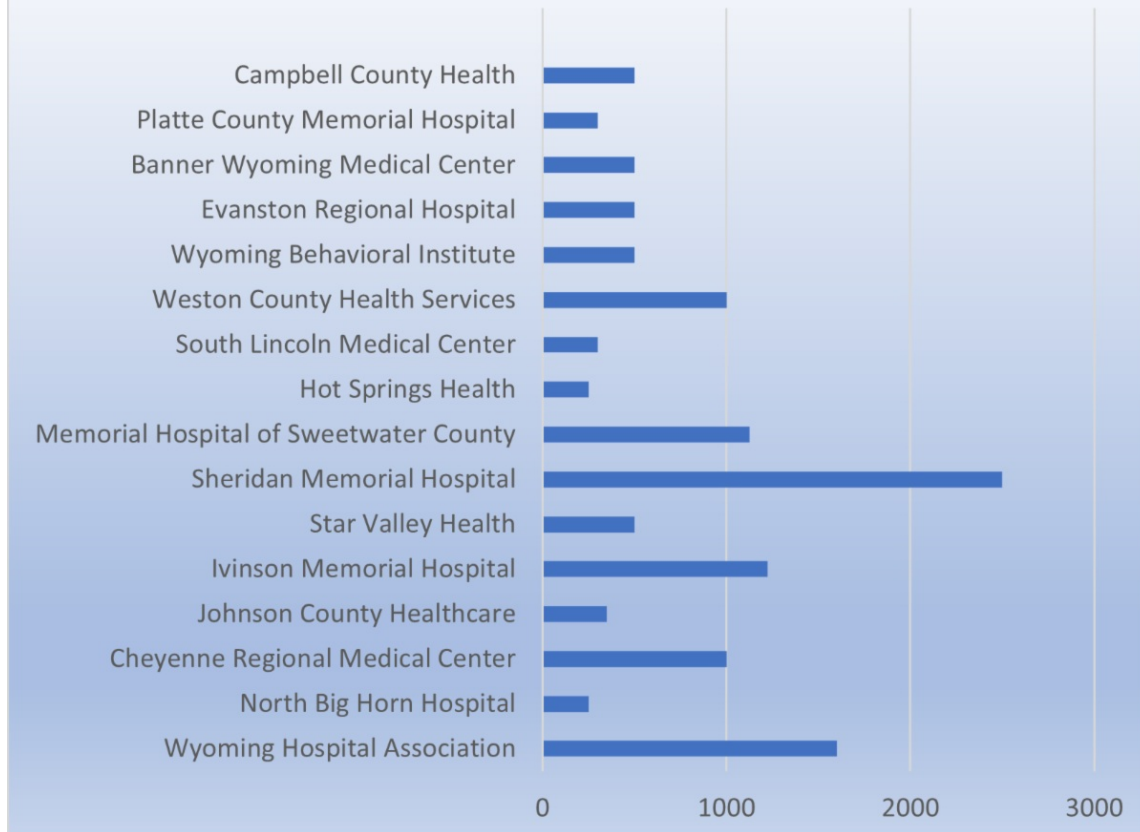
This is a unique opportunity to gain actionable insights that empower your workforce strategy and position your organization for long-term success.

[Reserve Your Spot Now](#)

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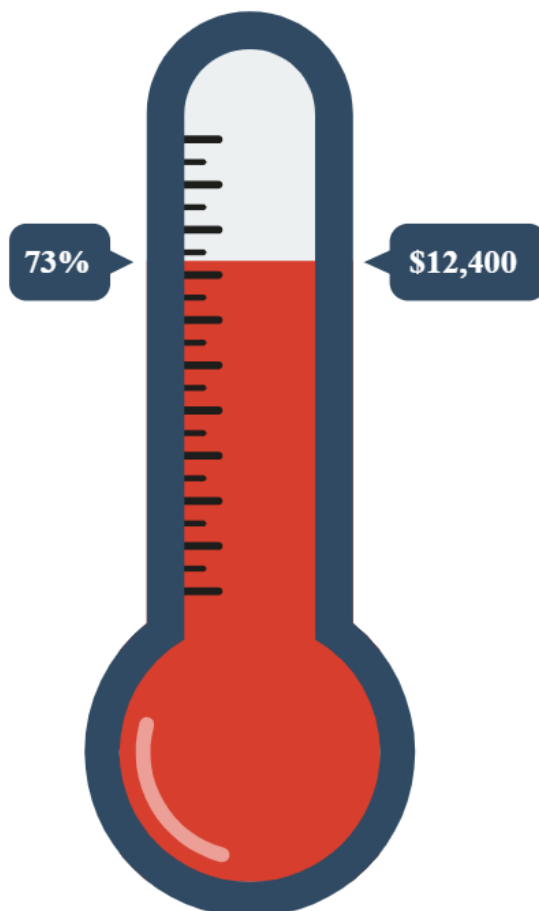


**WHA PAC Goal for 2025
Contributors**



WHA PAC

GOAL: \$17,000



Barry Burkart
Eric Boley
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Barbara Sowada
Scott Alwin
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