



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Home and Community Living Administration
P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

October 2, 2025

Amended October 31, 2025

HCLA: NH #2025-049
HCLA: ICF/IID# 2025-015
HCLA:AFH #2025-044
HCLA: ALF #2025-043
HCLA: ESF# 2025-30
HCLA: CCRSS #2025-024

Impacts From Federal Government Shut Down

Dear Provider/Administrator

The intent of this communication is to relay our plan of operation as it relates to the Federal Government Shutdown which impacts our Nursing Home (NH) providers and Residential Care Services (RCS) NH staff.

October 1, 2025, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) gave the directive that all state survey and certification agencies had to halt all federal survey work and Residential Care Services (RCS) was to wrap up work we had started prior to 10-1-25, within 4 hours. RCS staff will need to come back and finish these federal surveys once the shutdown ends. **Currently federal surveys are paused.**

RCS has state licensing regulations that require us to inspect facilities every 15.99 months. Typically, we conduct our licensing visits with the federal survey. We will temporarily pause doing the license visits and wait for federal surveys to start again. If we were to conduct them now, RCS would have to go back in again and conduct the federal survey later which means 2 visits RCS staff must do, and 2 visits disrupting the daily routine of residents and provider staff. We will revisit this decision if the shutdown continues beyond 30 days. At that point we may need to start doing our licensing visits, so we do not get behind in the state requirement and to ensure we are still visiting homes and monitoring care and services.

All tasks in community programs (ALF, ESF, AFH, CCRSS) will continue as usual and uninterrupted. Our work in these programs is not funded through federal dollars.
Work in Medicaid only facilities (ICF/IID Facilities and Nursing Facilities) will continue as usual through the first quarter of the fiscal year.

On October 21, 2025, CMS provided updated guidance indicating revisits necessary to prevent mandatory denial of payment for new admissions (MDPNA) will be allowed within 15 days of imposition of the enforcement. RCS will need to request approval from CMS prior to the revisit.

As of October 31, 2025, CMS has updated their guidance stating revisit surveys may be approved by exception and necessary to prevent termination or prevent a statutorily mandated (three-month) denial of payment for new admissions. If a discretionary denial of payment for new admission (NPNA) has been in effect and the revisit meets the same timeframe as allowed for a mandatory DPNA.

CMS has directed us to only conduct investigations for Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) and harm level complaints for NH during the federal shutdown. However, RCW requires us to investigate any complaint received. RCS **will continue investigating all complaints** but will **only cite IJ and harm citation(s) at the federal level (F Tags)**. All other citations will need to be **cited through the state regulatory process**.

Enforcement actions will continue during this time. Enforcement for IJ and Harm level citations will be coordinated with CMS. All other citations will be enforced using state enforcement remedies. The iQIES system remains available for use so providers will receive all Statements of Deficiencies (SODs) via ePOC and can return any Plan of Correction (POC) via ePOC.

CRU is still accepting complaints for all settings during the shutdown and CMS has a small crew still working on critical issues. If you wish to review the **updated** guidance issued by CMS click the link for [QSO-026-01-All REVISED](#)

Thank you for your continued commitment to client health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*