



2026 Quality Improvement Residency Program Overview

The NHA Quality Improvement (QI) Residency Program's objective is to provide a collaborative learning environment focused on mentoring and networking for hospital quality personnel to develop empowered, statewide leaders.

This program consists of five, two-day training modules every other month (February to October) for 9 months, and as needed touch base time with a mentor to follow-up on assignments.

Intended audience includes those new to the responsibility or interest in:

- Quality and Performance Improvement
- Accreditation and Survey Compliance
- Medical Staff Quality Initiatives
- Data Reporting
- Risk Management
- Infection Control
- Patient Safety
- Board Governance

General Information

Session 1 | February 25-26, 2026 | NHA Headquarters, Lincoln, NE

Session 2 | April 22-23, 2026 | Community Hospital, McCook, NE

Session 3 | June 24-25, 2026 | Mary Lanning Healthcare, Hastings, NE

Session 4 | August 26-27, 2026 | Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus, NE

Session 5 | October 7-8, 2026 | NHA Headquarters, Lincoln, NE

Cost for Enrollment

Non-CAH/RHC Participant: \$2,000

CAH/RHC Participant: \$1,500

This reduced fee is made possible thanks to partial scholarships provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Office of Rural Health FLEX Grant.

Lodging

Participants will be responsible for travel and lodging expenses. A block of rooms will be reserved under the name of the Nebraska Hospital Association for the nights relative to each session. You will be notified of the lodging information and the deadline date for reservations.

Registration

Non-CAH/RHC Participant: [Event Registration](#)

CAH/RHC Participant: [Event Registration](#)

Registration Deadline is January 30th, 2026. Space is limited, so please register early to secure your seat.

Questions? Contact Amber Kavan at akavan@nebraskahospitals.org.

Absence

Attendance at the NHA QI Residency Program sessions is essential for participants to successfully complete the program and receive a certificate of completion. Participants who miss more than one session will consequently be dismissed from the program. Continuing education is available only to participants who are present for all modules.

Dress Code

Business casual dress for the sessions is acceptable.

Handling Concerns

The QI Residency Program is intended to be a safe, educational and productive professional development experience for all participants. Any concerns should be brought to the attention of the faculty of the Nebraska Hospital Association staff promptly. These individuals will do their best to quickly resolve a participant's concerns.

Special Needs

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Nebraska Hospital Association seeks to make the QI Residency Program accessible to all. If you have a disability that may require special accommodations or have any dietary restrictions, please e-mail your needs to akavan@nebraskahospitals.org.

Mentorship

The Rural QI Steering Committee has partnered with the Nebraska Association of Healthcare Quality Risk and Safety (NAHQRS) to provide all residents with a mentor. Your mentor is an experienced Nebraska quality professional who works in the healthcare quality field. As the mentee, you are encouraged to connect with your mentor within the first month of residency and thereafter as needed. This person can be used to seek clarification, address questions, and offer quality resources. Your mentor has agreed to be a point of contact throughout the residency program.

Residency Capstone

Quality residents will be required to complete a quality specific capstone and present their work at the final residency meeting. The quality project should be specific to their hospital and/or department needs. This capstone project will allow quality residents to implement learning from the program. Students are encouraged to use program speakers, mentors, and class peers as advisors in their capstone.

Project Components

Create a PowerPoint presentation and a poster – Template will be provided. Class time will be dedicated to capstone work throughout the program.

Topics to Include:

1. Team
2. AIM Statement
3. Measures
4. PDSA
5. Data
6. ROI
7. Spreading Change
8. Sustainability