



CREATING SOMETHING NEW

Addressing the Need for Skilled Nursing Beds
in Champaign-Urbana

AAC

ADVOCATES
FOR AGING CARE

THE PROBLEM

Champaign County is the most underserved county in Illinois for skilled nursing beds.

- Champaign County lost over 450 beds in recent years.
- We are over 300 beds short - a deficit of 40% of the county's needed skilled nursing beds.
- This means that only 60% of those needing care can get it in Champaign County.



FIRST, SOME DEFINITIONS

- **Assisted Living:** A community-based residential facility that provides care for residents who need some help with activities of daily living. Most Assisted Living is private-pay and is not certified to accept Medicaid or Medicare.
 - There are 18 facilities in Champaign County.
- **Skilled Nursing:** A residential facility that provides nursing and therapy care that can only be performed by a licensed professional. Skilled nursing stays may be short or long-term; short-term stays may be part of a Medicare benefit; long-term stays may be private pay or covered via Medicaid.
 - There are 4 facilities in Champaign County.

Life Plan Community

- aka Continuing Care Retirement Community
- Includes
 - Independent Living
 - Assisted Living
 - Memory Care (if needed)
 - Skilled Nursing

SKILLED NURSING MARKET STUDY

In October 2024, a national consultant* in senior housing assessed Champaign County's market need and financial sustainability. They found:



- Out of the 700+ skilled nursing beds needed by 2026, Champaign County is short more than 300, **a deficit of 40%.**
- Champaign County is the **only county in the State with a shortage of this magnitude.** Most Illinois counties have excess skilled nursing beds.
- Compared to national averages**, Champaign County is **short 274 skilled nursing beds.**

*Greystone Communities

**Measured by nursing beds/1,000 citizens aged 85+

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

To establish a high-quality skilled nursing facility in Champaign County that provides innovative and person-centered care supporting residents throughout their lifetime.

AAC VISION

To make Champaign County the leader in age-friendly communities through safety, innovation, and quality.



WHO ARE THE ADVOCATES FOR AGING CARE?



Advocates for Aging Care was founded in May 2023 as a grassroots, volunteer-run organization.

In July 2026, AAC became a not-for-profit organization in preparation for overseeing a new skilled nursing facility.

To date, there are over 700 advocates in Champaign County.

ADVOCATES STEERING COMMITTEE



- Cathy Emanuel, Chair
- Lynne Barnes
- Sandra Carroll
- Ramona Cheek
- Tom Corbin

- Joan Dixon
- Holly Jordan
- Cathy Kirby
- Sarah Laufenberg
- Diane Marlin

- Laurie Reynolds
- Jan Sherbert
- Ann Sussman
- Kathy Vance
- Nancy Yeagle

WHAT IS AAC STRIVING TO ACCOMPLISH?



Establish a skilled nursing facility in Champaign County that is:

- Not-for-Profit
- Partnership-based
- Innovative and research-oriented
- A replicable demonstration facility for skilled nursing care

PROGRESS: COMMUNITY SUPPORT

AAC organized a Leadership Council, led by State Senators Paul Faraci and Chapin Rose, to further advance this initiative. AAC appreciates support from:

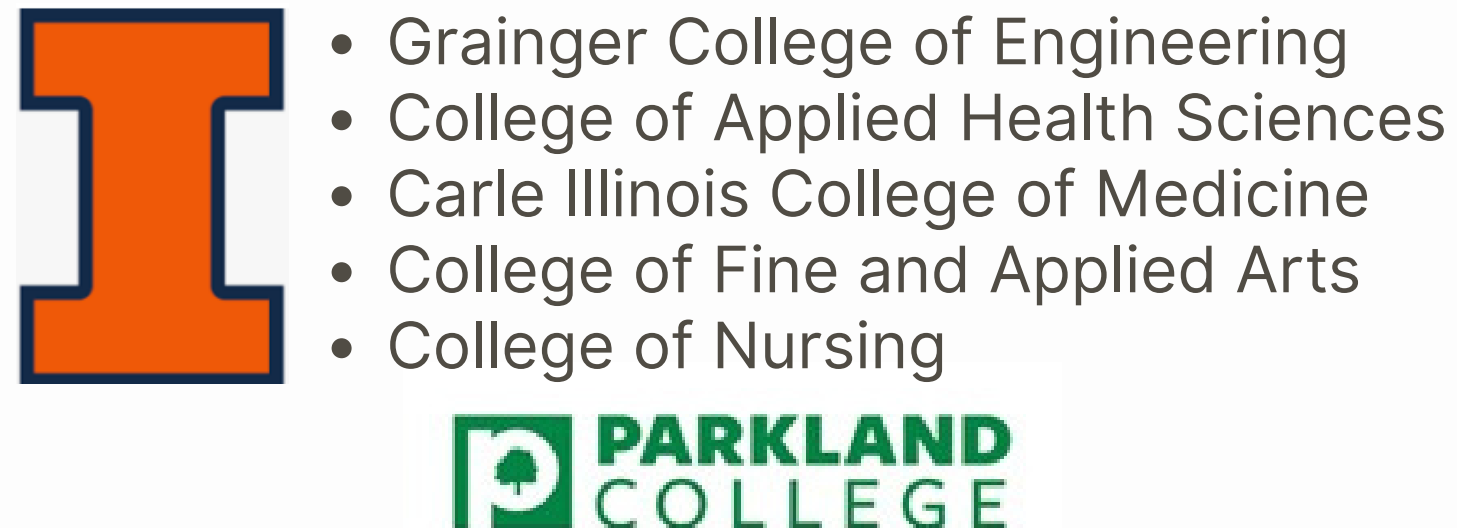
Providers



Government



Higher Education



Community



PROGRESS: GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

- In September 2025, State Senator Paul Faraci secured \$500,000 in the Illinois budget to support AAC's capital costs for a new skilled nursing facility. A second \$500,000 was awarded in the subsequent budget year.
- The Illinois General Assembly amended the Illinois Nursing Home Care Act to define and recognize the new "Cottage" model, increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate for our innovative model.



"This investment reflects our commitment to supporting our aging population and ensuring their continued well-being. By working with local healthcare providers and educational institutions, we have the opportunity to create something new—a model of skilled nursing care in Illinois."

- State Senator Paul Faraci

PROGRESS: FORMALIZED PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARKLAND AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

- Parkland has authorized working with AAC to explore apprenticeships.
- UIUC has charged faculty researchers to begin collaboration with AAC
- In March 2026, AAC met with 40 University of Illinois researchers to explore:
 - Embed research and clinical practice into care delivery, including piloting new technologies and advancing safety and design.
 - Create hands-on, interdisciplinary educational opportunities for University students.
 - Develop The Cottages into a nationally recognized model for skilled nursing.



PROGRESS: A MODEL CHOSEN

AAC has identified Green Houses as its preferred skilled nursing model.



- Private Bedrooms and Bathrooms
- Ten Cottages; 12 Residents per Cottage

- Home-like Setting
- Resident-Centered
- Universal Workers



MORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS...

- Finalized a partnership with a highly experienced developer and management company.
- Finalized a location.
- AAC has been approved for:
 - 501(c)(3) status
 - Certificate of Need



...AND NEXT STEPS

- Working with the Village of Savoy on allowance requirements.
- Continuing to fundraise to support initial operations.
 - AAC has raised over \$1 million of its \$3 million goal.
- Breaking ground in late fall, 2026.



AAC

ADVOCATES
FOR AGING CARE

To stay informed, please join our mailing list on our website:

www.advocatesforagingcare.org