

METHODOLOGY

America's Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities **2026**



Newsweek



Methodology – America's Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities 2026

Summary of the project

- Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs), also known as Life Plan Communities, are facilities that offer **a continuum of long-term care options**, allowing residents to access higher-level care if or when medical needs progress. The communities typically include independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing care, and memory care on the same campus.⁽¹⁾
- To provide people looking for guidance on CCRCs with a comprehensive resource for informed decision-making, the 3rd edition of **America's Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) 2026** awards the leading 330 facilities in the U.S.
- The 30 states with the most CCRCs were included in the ranking.⁽²⁾
- The ranking is based on **four data sources**:
 1. Evaluation from medical professionals and staff working in the management/administration of CCRCs as well as acquaintances of residents and residents living in CCRCs
 2. Visitor satisfaction based on facility visitor data provided by Accushield⁽³⁾
 3. Accreditation programs relevant for CCRCs based on the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)⁽⁴⁾
 4. Google reviews as a proxy for overall satisfaction

New features and changes in the 2026 edition

Major updates

- The following list provides a brief overview of all **major updates in this year's edition** compared to the 2025 ranking:
 - Due to increased data availability, the number of **states included** was increased **from 25 to 30**, focusing on those states with the highest number of facilities.
The newly added states are:
 - Alabama
 - New Hampshire
 - Oklahoma
 - Oregon
 - Tennessee
 - **Inclusion of previous year's evaluation data:** To ensure continuity in reputational assessment, evaluation data from the preceding two years was integrated into the reputation pillar.

CCRC evaluation is based on four pillars: Evaluation from professionals, acquaintances & residents, visitor satisfaction, accreditation, and Google reviews

Data sources

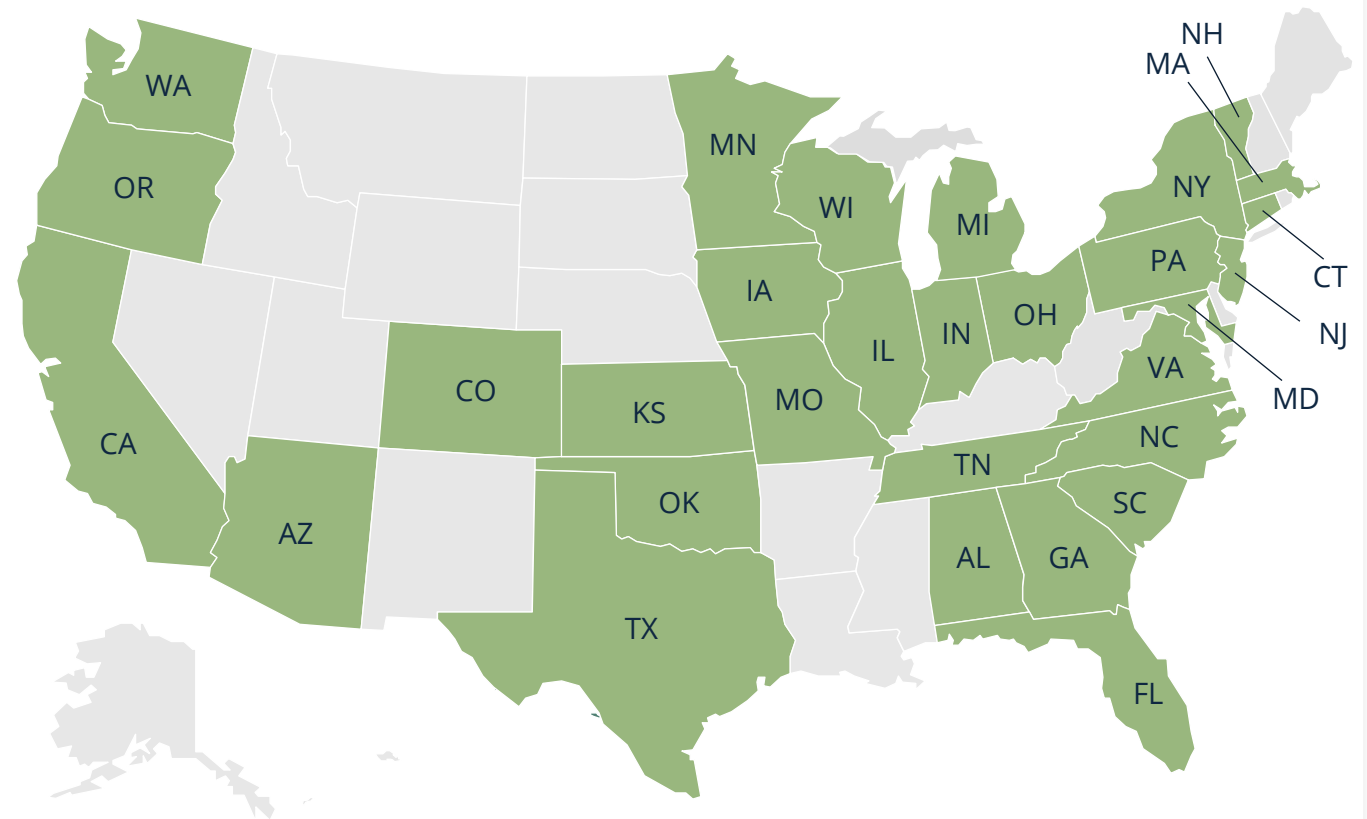


Continuing Care Retirement Communities from 30 U.S. states were eligible for the ranking

Geographical distribution

- Continuing Care Retirement Communities from the **30 states with the highest number of facilities⁽¹⁾** were included in the surveys:

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wisconsin



Medical professionals with knowledge about Continuing Care Retirement Communities were surveyed about the best facilities

1 Professionals' recommendations contribute to the reputation score

From July to September 2025, Statista invited medical professionals (e.g., registered nurses, therapists, and physicians) and staff working in the management/administration of CCRCs to a nationwide online survey.



Online survey among medical professionals and managers/administrators working in or associated with a CCRC through their work. The survey was also promoted on [newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com).



Participants were asked to **recommend** notable Continuing Care Retirement Communities. Recommendations for own employer/CCRC were not allowed.



The recommendations were based on the number of weighted recommendations. Recommendations from the 2023 and 2024 survey period were given less weight compared to those from 2025. Additionally, the professional experience of the participant was considered. **A score was assigned to each CCRC.**

PROFESSIONALS' SCORE CONSTITUTE 50% OF THE REPUTATION SCORE

Acquaintances and residents living in Continuing Care Retirement Communities were surveyed about the best facilities

1 Acquaintances/residents' ratings contribute to the reputation score

From July to September 2025, Statista invited residents living in CCRCs and their acquaintances to an online survey.



Online survey Online survey among acquaintances of residents⁽¹⁾ and residents living in Continuing Care Retirement Communities. The survey was also promoted on newsweek.com.



Participants were asked to **rate** notable Continuing Care Retirement Communities they have visited in the past three years or in which they currently live, on a scale from 1 to 10.



Ratings from the 2023 and 2024 survey period were given less weight compared to those from 2025. **A score was assigned to each CCRC based on the ratings.**

THE RATINGS CONSTITUTE 80% OF THE ACQUAINTANCES/RESIDENTS' SCORE

A subscore for quality dimensions was calculated based on acquaintances'/residents' recommendations for each rated CCRC



1 Weights of quality dimensions

- Participants were asked to rate the CCRCs according to 8 quality dimensions on a scale from 1 ("Poor") to 10 ("Excellent").
- A quality dimensions score was derived from participant-reported importance, and scores were calculated as weighted averages of these ratings:

Quality dimensions subscore			
13%	Accommodation	11%	Food
9%	Commercial Services	17%	Overall Care
10%	Community Services	14%	Overall Safety Measures
13%	Financial Factors	13%	Overall Staffing

THE QUALITY DIMENSIONS SCORE CONSTITUTES 20% OF THE ACQUAINTANCES/RESIDENTS' SCORE

A Visitor satisfaction score was included based on data provided by Accushield

2 Visitor satisfaction score

- A **Visitor satisfaction score** was included based on data provided by Accushield.
- By working with senior living communities around the U.S., **Accushield, LLC** helps facilities with their visitor management to increase safety and reduce vulnerability for seniors across the U.S., as well as to provide and **visualize satisfaction data from relatives and acquaintances** of people living in senior living communities.⁽¹⁾
- Via the **Reputation Accelerator™**, visitors from senior living communities, including CCRCs, directly evaluate their satisfaction with their visit to the respective facility.⁽²⁾
- Facilities that use the Reputation Accelerator™ to generate visitor satisfaction data receive a Visitor satisfaction score.
- Facilities without a visitor satisfaction score from Accushield are evaluated based on a scoring model comprising only the reputation score, accreditation score, and Google reviews score.

THE VISITOR SATISFACTION SCORE CONSTITUTES 15% OF THE TOTAL SCORE

Additionally, CARF Accreditation and Google reviews were included in the scoring model

3 CARF Accreditation

- An Accreditation Score was included based on data provided by **CARF International**, an independent nonprofit accreditor of health and human services⁽¹⁾ that plays a vital role in setting **global standards for aging services**.
- The scope of the accreditation covers a **broad spectrum of care options** within the continuum of care, including assisted living, person-centered long-term care communities, and independent senior living.
- Moreover, CARF offers specialized **accreditation programs for dementia, palliative, and end-of-life care**⁽²⁾.
- In addition to clinical considerations, CARF evaluates non-clinical aspects⁽¹⁾, such as food quality, room service, and restaurant offerings.

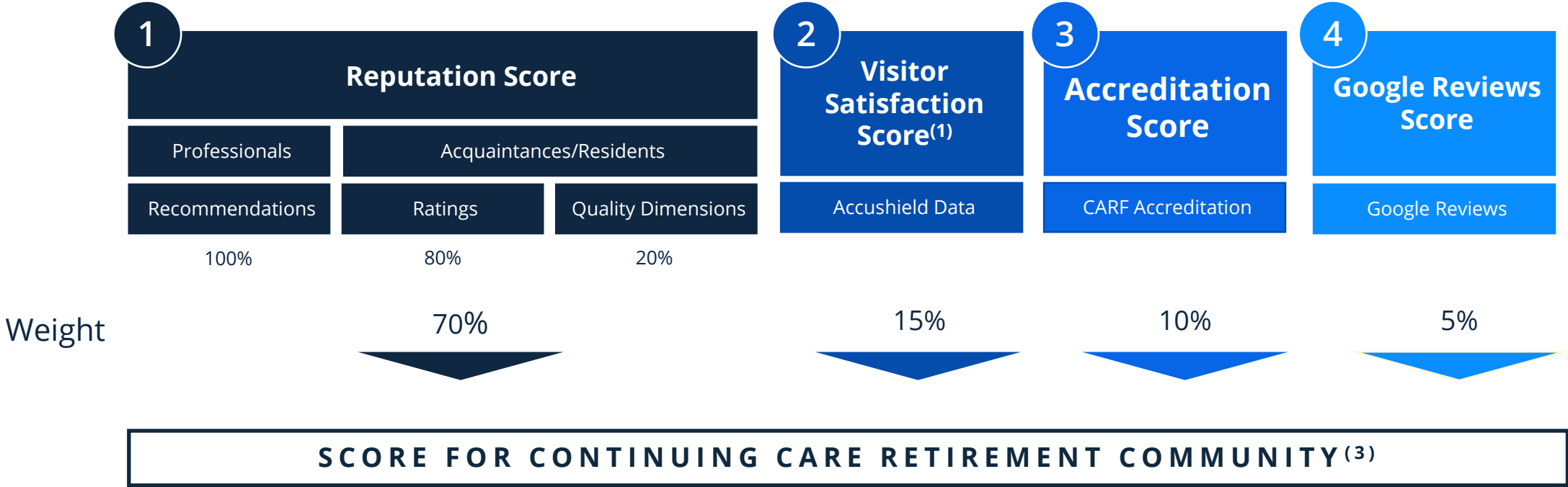
4 Google Reviews

- As a minor additional pillar of the scoring, evaluations from **Google** were included for each CCRC.
- Based on the available data, CCRC received a **satisfaction rating** between 0 and 5 stars.
- To receive a Google review score, the CCRC must have a minimum threshold of **at least 10 reviews**.

THE CARF ACCREDITATION SCORE CONSTITUTES 10% & THE GOOGLE SCORE CONSTITUTES 5% OF THE TOTAL SCORE

A score was calculated for each Continuing Care Retirement Community

Scoring model



Professionals' score and Acquaintances/Residents' score each account for 50% of the reputation score.

11 (1) Facilities without a Visitor Satisfaction Score from Accushield are evaluated based on the Reputation Score, Accreditation Score, and Google Reviews Score.
(2) Please note that all facilities undergo an additional process of quality assurance, to determine if significant events such as insolvency or prolonged financial difficulties occurred.

As a result, the leading 330 Continuing Care Retirement Communities with the highest total score were awarded

Final Continuing Care Retirement Communities Score

Nationwide Ranking

U.S. Rank	Facility	Score	City	State	State Rank
1	HumanGood - Valle Verde	93.27%	Santa Barbara	California	1
2	Willow Valley Communities	92.54%	Willow Street	Pennsylvania	1
3	Freedom Pointe at The Villages	92.27%	The Villages	Florida	1
4	Moorings Park	91.92%	Naples	Florida	2
5	Roland Park Place	90.78%	Baltimore	Maryland	1

[...]

LEADING CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES WERE AWARDED

Statista R, and Newsweek comprise the strong partner network behind the America's Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities ranking

Partner Network



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The Newsweek logo, consisting of the word "Newsweek" in a white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a solid red rectangular background.

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Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of continuing care retirement communities that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on peer recommendations and available data sources at the time. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data-collection and analysis, is a reflection of the last calendar year. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period October 15, 2024 – October 15, 2025, and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the facilities were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations.

The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about continuing care retirement communities or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of continuing care retirement communities that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.