

## Launch of Plan Year 2026 FFE Assister Certification Training

FFE PY2026 Assister Certification Training

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight (CCIIO)



#### **Objectives**

At the end of this webinar, you should be able to:

- Understand Training, Certification, and Recertification Process
- What's New for PY2026
- Prepare Your Computer System
- Identify Steps to Create CMS Secure Portal ID/Login
- Login to CMS and Request Access to MLMS
- Enroll for Required Curriculum
- Complete Training
- Print a Training Completion Certificate
- Re-launch Course
- Complete Feedback
- Locate Additional Resources

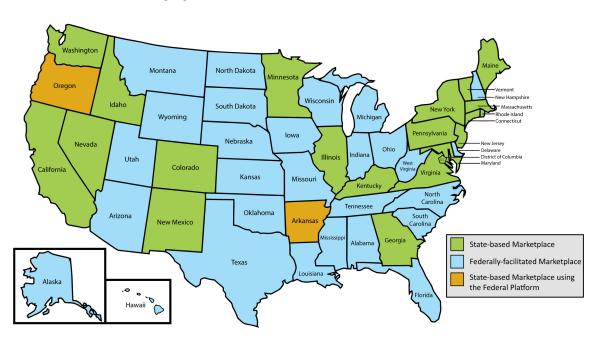


### **Training Completion Requirements**

#### Navigators, CACs, SBE-FP Assisters, & Other

- Required: 7 courses and corresponding assessments with an 80% pass rate
- Optional: 4 optional courses are included in the curriculum
  - Some states have imposed additional state-specific assister requirements, including additional training requirements
  - Assisters should reach out to their state's Department of Insurance (DOI) (or other regulating entity) to familiarize themselves with their state's requirements

All Assisters, whether new or returning, are required to complete the full curriculum for PY2026.



Assisters must fulfill all training and certification requirements prior to the start of Open Enrollment on November 1, 2025

Note: To become certified, you must complete the full course as there is no longer a separate Returning Assister curriculum.

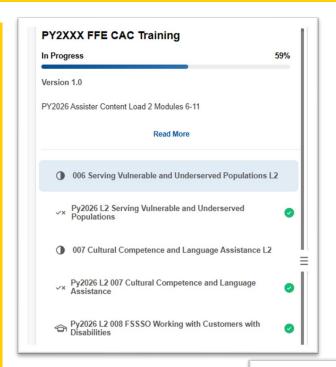
#### What's New in the MLMS for PY2026?

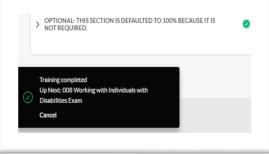
#### **Curriculum Player 2.0**

A new curriculum player is being used for the upcoming plan year. This will provide a more user-friendly experience with a more streamlined approach.

#### **New player features:**

- Training will now include an audio option, which can be disabled depending on preference.
- Training will be displayed in-line. A pop-up page is no longer required. User will still have the ability expand to full screen or open in a new window.
- There are color-coordinated indicators for completed training.
- A message will indicate when training is complete.
- Auto-launch will continue to launch the next training or exam once a user completes a module.
- When you open (Launch) the curriculum, it will default to the last accessed module.

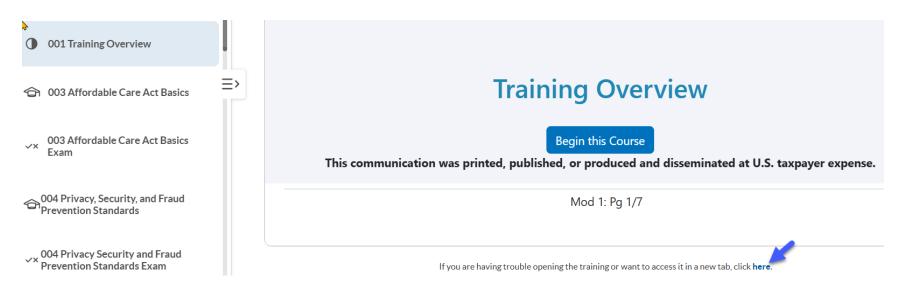




#### What's New in the MLMS for PY2026?

#### **Curriculum Player 2.0**

- The new player provides a more modern and streamlined user experience.
- The user will also have the option to complete the training in the old format by selecting full screen mode.



#### What's New in the MLMS for PY2026?

#### **No Returning Training**

#### **Important Training Update for PY2026:**

- The "Returning" CAC and Navigator training options are discontinued and will no longer be an option.
- All users will now complete a single training program based on their specific role.
- Dual Assisters must still register with both IDs and complete all necessary training modules.
  - Check both CAC and Navigator boxes and add your unique id's for each
  - Enroll and complete all required modules for one of the curricula (i.e., Navigator training modules)
  - Print completed certificate from first curriculum
  - Enroll in next curriculum (i.e., CAC) and your completed courses will transfer over
  - Print completed certificate from second curriculum

#### **Prepare Your Computer System**

#### **Company Device vs Personal Device**

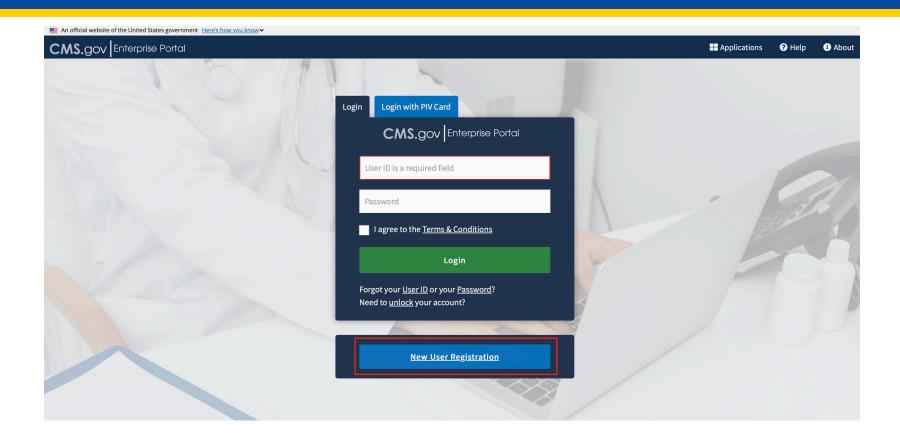
- Some company networks restrict access to certain websites and/or internet browsers
- Some company computers have additional security controls or software that may interfere with MLMS access
- If you experience technical issues on a work computer, and your IT department is unable to resolve the issue, complete your training on your personal laptop or computer
- If you don't have access to a personal laptop, computer, or mobile device, we suggest you visit your local library

#### **Register for CMS Secure Portal ID**

Steps to Register for CMS Secure Portal ID as a NEW User

- 1. Select **New User Registration** link <a href="https://portal.cms.gov">https://portal.cms.gov</a>
- 2. Step #1: Select your application select the down arrow and type "ffm" into the search box.
- Select Federally Facilitated Marketplace application and Agree to the Terms and Conditions
- 4. Register **Your Information** (personal)
- 5. Create a unique **User ID** and **Password**
- 6. Choose a **Challenge Question and Answer**
- 7. Review **Registration Summary**
- 8. Set up **Multi-Factor Authentication** (MFA)

### **Step 1: Select New User Registration Link**



The CMS Secure Portal is the entry point for CMS Assister training. Select **New User Registration** link to create an account.

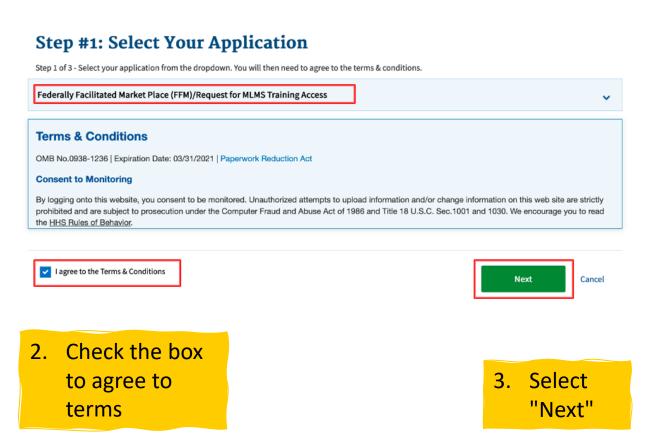
## Step 2: Select MLMS Application & Agree to Terms and Conditions

1. Click the down arrow, type

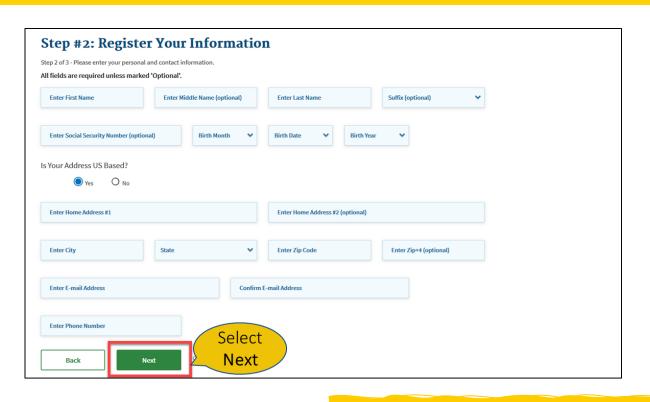
"ffm" and select

"Federally Facilitated

Marketplace"



### **Step 3: Register Your Information**



Make sure you are entering your personal information; **HOME** address, Social Security Number, etc. You will not pass validation with your work information.

Select "Next"

Please use your personal email address

## Step 4: Create Unique ID and Password Step 5: Answer Challenge Questions

#### Step #3: Create User ID, Password & Security Question/Answer

Step 3 of 3 - Please create User ID and Password. Select a Security Question and provide Answer.

All fields are required unless marked (optional).

Enter User ID

Enter Password

Confirm Password

Security answer to be used in case you forget your password or you need to unlock your account.

Select Security Question

Enter Security Answer

Back

Next

Cancel

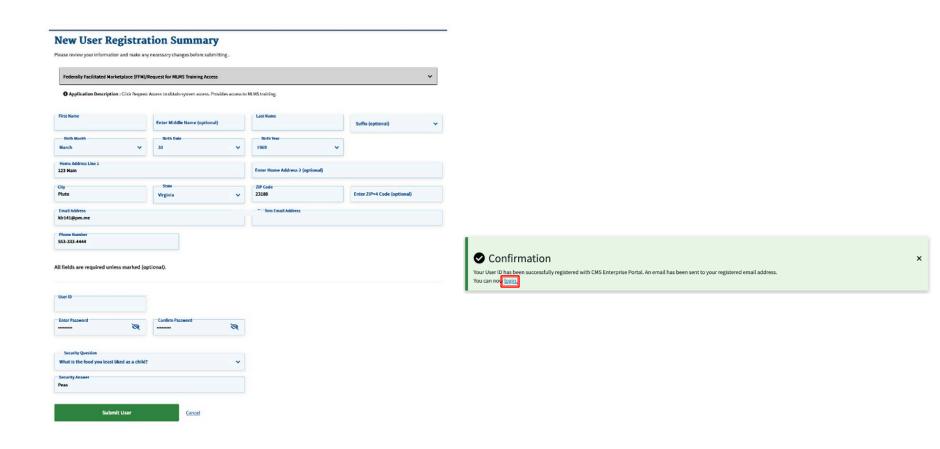
Create a user ID and Password.

(this can be anything you wish)

This is how you will access the training system going forward. Make a note of your login info!

Select a security question and provide an answer.

## **Step 6: Review Registration Summary**



After verifying your information click **SUBMIT USER**. The confirmation page, as shown above. Use the **login** line to CMS secure portal.

## Step 7: Setting up Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

#### Select a device/method from the drop down.

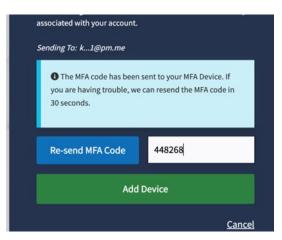


#### Select "Send MFA Code"



If you use email to validate the MFA code, the code will be sent to the email address you used to register your account. Enter the code just sent to whichever device you selected

Select "Add Device" to finalize your selection



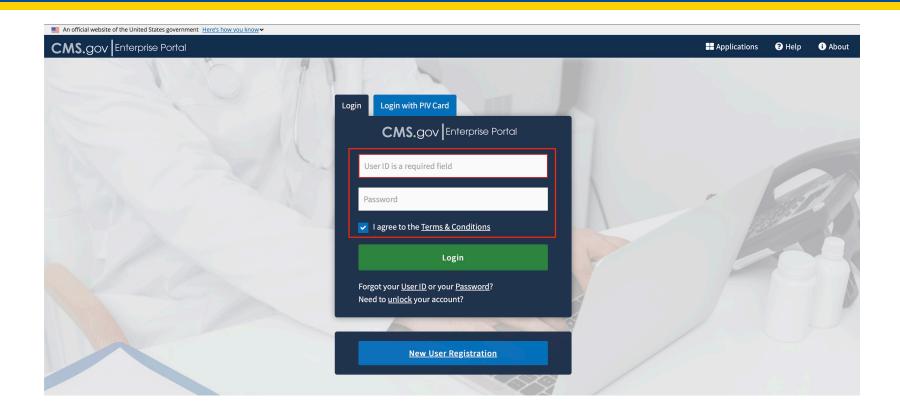
Important! You will need to use MFA **each time** you log into the CMS Portal. You can select Re-send MFA code if you do not receive the code within about 1 minute.

#### Request Access to MLMS

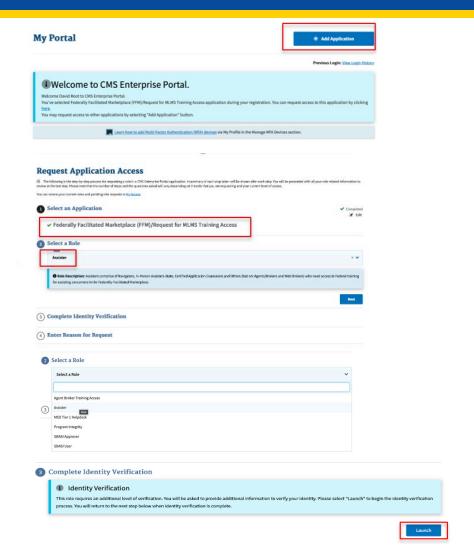
**Steps to Request Access as Assister** 

- 1. Login to CMS Secure Portal
- 2. Select Request/Add Apps
- 3. Search for FFM/Training
- 4. Select **Assister** Role

## Step 1: Login to CMS Portal



### **Step 2: Select Request/Add Apps**



Select "Add Application"

Type "FFM" in the drop down,

Then select "Federally-Facilitated

Marketplace (FFM) Request for MLMS

Training Access"

**Select** "Assister" from the drop-down menu and select "Next"

"Access assister training" when asked to give a reason for your request

To start the ID verification process, **Select** "Launch"

### **Step 1: Complete Identity Verification**

#### **Step #1: Identity Verification Overview**

To protect your privacy, you will need to complete Identity Verification successfully, before requesting access to the selected role. Below are a few items to keep in mind.

- 1. Ensure that you have entered your legal name, current home address, phone number, date of birth and email address correctly. We will only collect personal information to verify your identity with Experian, an external identity Verification provider.
- 2. Identity Verification involves Experian using information from your credit report to help confirm your identity. As a result, you may see an entry called a "soft inquiry" on your Experian credit report. Soft inquiries do not affect your credit score and you do not incur any charges related to them.
- 3. You may need to have access to your personal and credit report information, as the Experian application will pose questions to you, based on data in their files. For additional information, please see the Experian Consumer Assistance website http://www.experian.com/help/

If you elect to proceed now, you will be prompted with a Terms and Conditions statement that explains how your Personal Identifiable Information (PII) is used to confirm your identity. To continue this process, select 'Next'

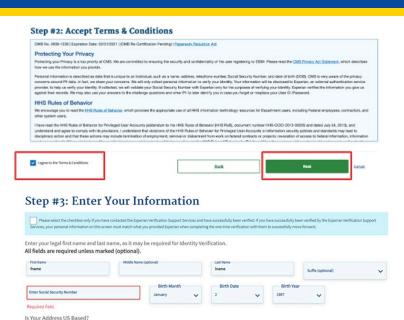
Next

Cancel

Read the instructions carefully. **Select** "Next". Then enter all the required **personal information** on the next page. This is the information contained in your credit report.

Before you begin the process of identity verification, we <u>strongly encourage</u> you to download a copy of your free credit report from Experian. If the information you provide does not match the information in the credit report, YOU WILL NOT BE VERIFIED. Your free credit report can be requested at <u>Annualcreditreport.com</u>.

## Steps 2 & 3: Complete Identity Verification - Continued



testtest@gmail.com

( Yes O No

654-654-6545

Email Address
testtest@gmail.com

Read the Terms &
Conditions, then check the
box to agree and select
"Next"

Enter all the required personal information.
Social Security Number is a required field.

Select "Next"

Be sure you have entered all your information accurately. Remember to use your home address, **not your work address**. If you use your work information, you will **not** pass verification and will not be able to access the MLMS to take the training.

## **Identity Verification Troubleshooting**

If you are still unable to verify your identity and need to go through the manual verification process please follow these steps:

- Review the information on your free credit report.
- Ensure you are entering your personal information and legal name as it appears on your government issued ID.
- If you fail to successfully identity proof, you may be directed to contact Experian. Take note of the Review Reference Number, e.g., IDM-FFM-123456 and call Experian at the number provided.
- If you have attempted all the above and still are unable to successfully identity proof, please contact the Marketplace Service Desk (MSD) for further assistance at 1-855-267-1515.
- Please note: You must be at least 18 years of age to assist consumers on the Marketplace. You will not pass ID verification if you are younger than 18.

#### **Access MLMS**

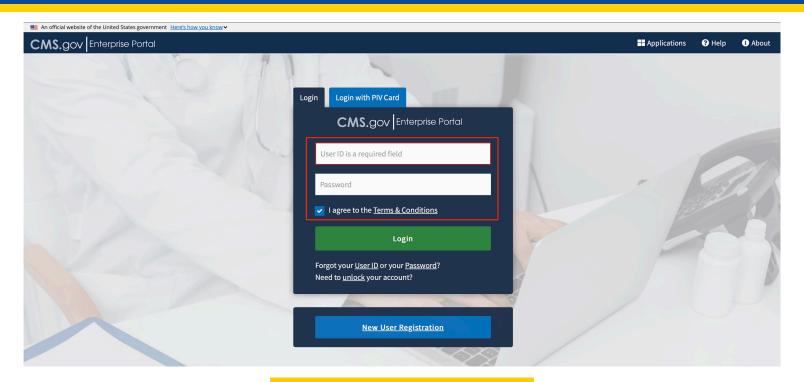
#### **Steps to Access MLMS as Assister**

- 1. Login to CMS Secure Portal (https://portal.cms.gov)
- 2. Select MLMS Training tile
- Review information on Profile Page and use Assigned Navigator ID/CAC ID
- 4. Access MLMS Assister Welcome Page

If you used the MLMS last year, you should already have a CMS Secure Portal ID and password to access MLMS. If not, follow these steps.

### **Step 1: Login to CMS Portal**

#### **Access MLMS**



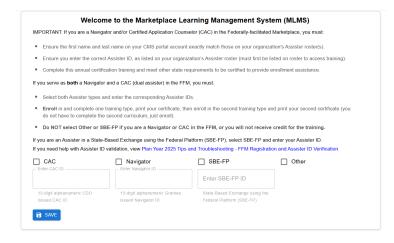
Enter your User ID, Password, check the Terms and Conditions box, and select "Login"

If you have forgotten your User ID or password, select the appropriate link for assistance.

## Steps 2 & 3: Select MLMS Training & Complete Profile Fields and Use Assigned ID (Navigators/CACs)

After logging in, select the Marketplace Training - Assister tile and then select MLMS Training





If you serve in multiple
roles (CAC & NAV), be sure
to check each assister type
and enter the
corresponding IDs. You will
only need to take the
training once, but you must
register for both to receive
credit for both roles.

When you complete the curriculum the completion date will be transferred automatically to your Assister Roster (CACs & Navigators). Allow 48 hours for this process to be complete. If, after 48 hours, your completion date does not appear on your roster, please contact the MLMS helpdesk before taking any additional actions.

## Step 3: Complete Profile Fields and Use Assigned ID Cont.

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IMPORTANT: If you are a Navig	ator and/or Certified Application Couns	elor (CAC) in the Federally-facilitated I	Marketplace, you must:
Ensure the first name and I	ast name on your CMS portal account	exactly match those on your organizat	ion's Assister roster(s).
Ensure you enter the correct	ct Assister ID, as listed on your organiz	ation's Assister roster (must first be lis	ted on roster to access training).
Complete this annual certification	cation training and meet other state re-	quirements to be certified to provide e	nrollment assistance.
If you serve as <b>both</b> a Navigato	r and a CAC (dual assister) in the FFM	, you must:	
Select both Assister types a	and enter the corresponding Assister ID	s.	
	training type, print your certificate, the second curriculum, just enroll).	n enroll in the second training type an	d print your second certificate (you
do not have to complete the	2 71 11	3 7,	
do not have to complete the  Do NOT select Other or S	e second curriculum, just enroll).  BE-FP if you are a Navigator or CAC	in the FFM, or you will not receive	credit for the training.
do not have to complete the  Do NOT select Other or S  If you are an Assister in a State	e second curriculum, just enroll).	in the FFM, or you will not receive	credit for the training.
do not have to complete the  Do NOT select Other or S  If you are an Assister in a State	e second curriculum, just enroll).  BE-FP if you are a Navigator or CAC  Based Exchange using the Federal Pla	in the FFM, or you will not receive	credit for the training.
do not have to complete the  Do NOT select Other or S  If you are an Assister in a State  If you need help with Assister ID  CAC	a second curriculum, just enroll).  BE-FP if you are a Navigator or CAC  -Based Exchange using the Federal Pli  D validation, view Plan Year 2025 Tips a	in the FFM, or you will not receive atform (SBE-FP), select SBE-FP and cand Troubleshooting - FFM Registration	credit for the training. enter your Assister ID. n and Assister ID Verification.
do not have to complete the  Do NOT select Other or S  If you are an Assister in a State  If you need help with Assister ID  CAC	a second curriculum, just enroll).  BE-FP if you are a Navigator or CAC  -Based Exchange using the Federal Pli  D validation, view Plan Year 2025 Tips a	in the FFM, or you will not receive atform (SBE-FP), select SBE-FP and and Troubleshooting - FFM Registratio	credit for the training. enter your Assister ID. n and Assister ID Verification.

IMPORTANT! If you get an error that your ID is not valid, please check with your organization to ensure you are listed in their system:

- Navigators need to be listed in their organization's Navigator Roster in the Marketplace Assister Community (MAC).
- CACs need to be listed on their organization's Roster in the Organizational Maintenance Web Form (OMWF).

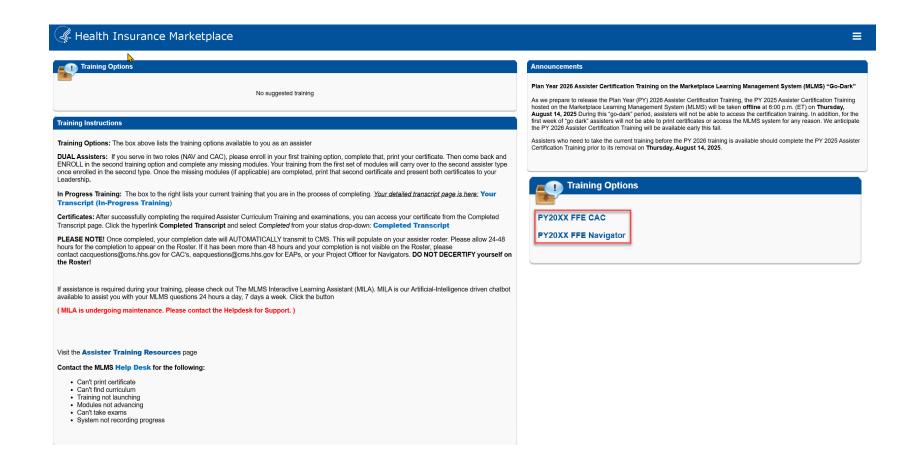
You will not get credit for training if you are not listed!

**Select "Save"**. You will be taken to the Welcome page.

po NOT select OTHER for your assister type if you are a Navigator or CAC! You will not get credit for your training if you do this.

If you are a returning Assister, the field names in red with an asterisk should already contain your ID number. Confirm the information is correct.

## Step 4: MLMS Assister Welcome Page



This is the MLMS Welcome Landing page.

To return to this page at anytime, select "Home" from the menu in the upper right-hand corner.

## **Steps to Enroll in Curriculum Step 1: Select Link To Enroll**

Select the curriculum title link in Training Options

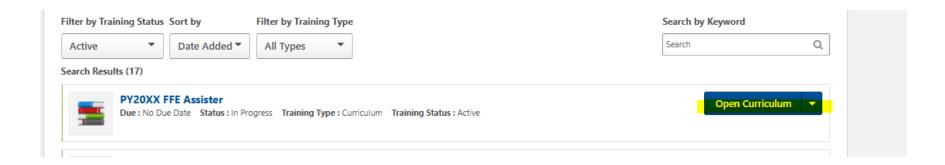


If you have updated your profile page with the correct Assister type(s) and ID(s), the Curriculum for your assister type(s) will appear automatically in the

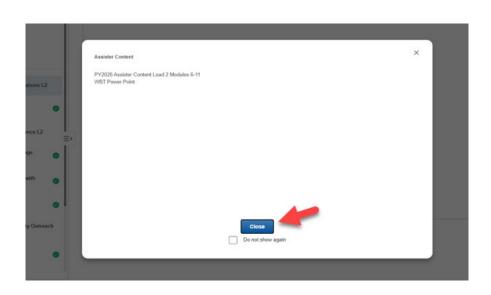
Training Options widget.

## Step 2: Select Open Curriculum

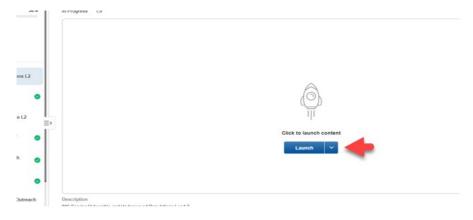
#### On your "Transcript" Select "Open Curriculum"



## Step 3: Select Close Step 4: Select Launch



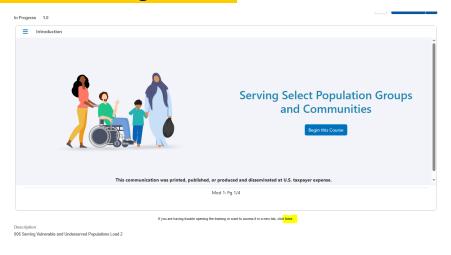
Select **Close** on the initial pop-up screen. **Do not Show Again** can also be selected.



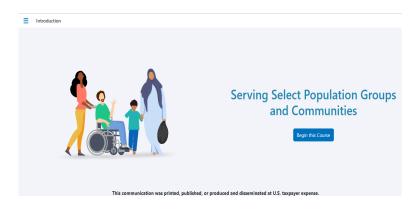
Select **Launch** – the content will open in the same window/tab.

# Step 5 (OPTIONAL): Select here to launch in a new window Step 6: Select Begin this Course

To open the training in a new window with a historical appearance, select "here" in the small print below the training window.



You will then LAUNCH the content by selecting "Begin this Course".

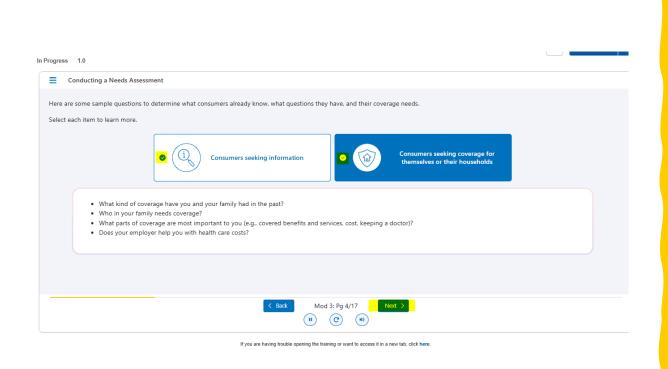


## Launch and Complete Required Training

- 1. Once inside the course, select **Right Arrow** to **Advance to the next** page of the Training.
- 2. You must select **ALL Links (usually in BOLD dark red)** on the screen to move to the next page.
- 3. Simply **Exit** by selecting the Exit Course button at the end of the course in the learning content window when finished. If you don't exit manually, the course will automatically advance to the next module.
  - If you need to exit before completing the course, your location will be bookmarked, and you can return to this spot when you return to the course. Close the window via the Exit Course button in the top right corner of the course.
- 4. Review **Completion Status** on the launch page. Completed modules will be marked with a green check mark.

HINT: The system will log you out after 30 minutes if you do not interact with the screen. You will be required to log back in if you experience a time-out.

## Step 1: Select Right Arrow to Advance Training



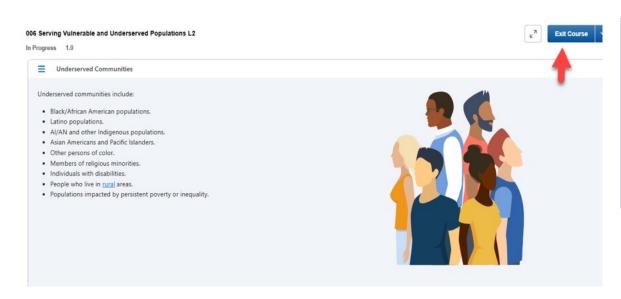
Be sure to open
every link on a page
so that the NEXT>
button will become
available, and you
can advance to the
next page.

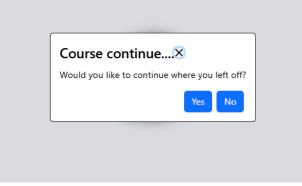
Select the **NEXT>** or **<BACK** buttons to move forward and back through the content.

On the Training course window use the **right arrow** button to advance through the course and the **left arrow** button to return the previous page.

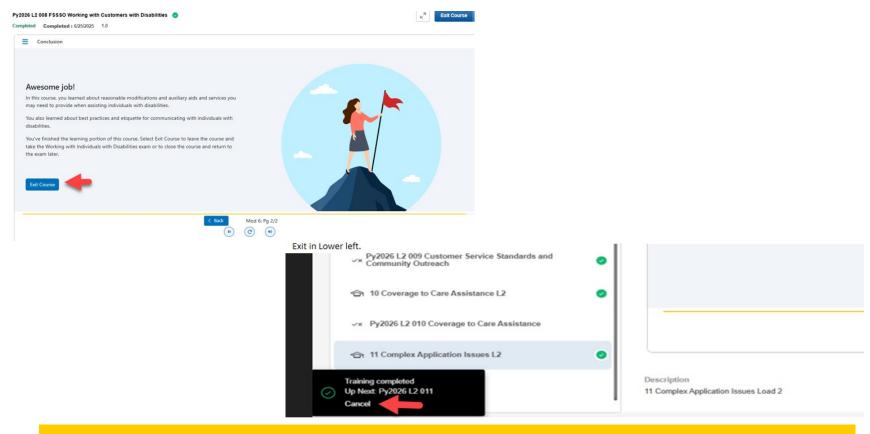
### **Step 2: Bookmarking**

You can exit the course at any time by selecting the "EXIT COURSE" button or closing the window (if using full screen)". When you exit a course before the entire module is complete, when you reenter you will be asked if you want to continue where you left off. You can select "Yes" to go to where you were when you exited, or you can select "No" and the module will return to the beginning.





### Step 3: Exit & Launch Exam



After completing the training module, select "Exit" to leave the course. Then, select "Launch Test" to begin the exam. If you do not select Exit Course the corresponding exam will automatically launch, or you can select CANCEL.

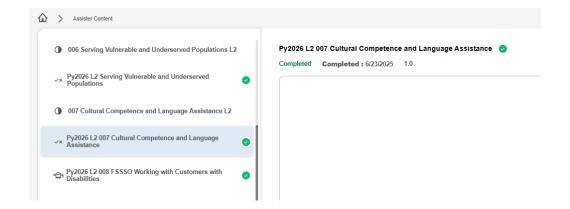
### **Step 3: Review Completion Status**

After passing the exam, the course will show a green check mark on the course launch page.

If you have completed the course and passed the exam and the status hasn't changed, try refreshing the page.

If that still does not work, contact the Help Desk or use the MILA chatbot to start a ticket.

This is where the screenshots can be helpful, you might need to send these to the Help Desk to get credit for your modules.



In Progress Training: The box below lists your current training that you are in the process of completing. <u>Your detailed transcript page is here</u>: In Progress Training

Certificates: After successfully completing the required Assister Curriculum Training and examinations, you can access your certificate from the Completed Transcript page. Click the hyperlink Completed Transcript and select Completed from your status drop-down: Completed Transcript

If assistance is required during your training, please check out The MLMS Interactive Learning Assistant (MILA). MILA is our Artificial-Intelligence drives shathet qualible to essist you with your MLMS questions 24 hours a

Visit the Assister Training Resources page
Contact the MLMS Help Desk

#### **MLMS Help Desk**

MLMSHelpDesk@cms.hhs.gov

- Can't print your certificate
- Can't find curriculum
- Training is not launching

## How to get Credit as Multiple Assister Types (NAV/CAC)

When you select both CAC & NAV on the MLMS page and enter your corresponding ID's you should have two courses listed one for each assister type. You will begin one curriculum and complete all the modules. Once you print your completion certificate, return to the training options page and enroll in the next curriculum. Then go to completed learning and print your second certificate.



After completing your first curriculum, then **enroll** in the additional training. Next, navigate to the completed section, of your Training Options and print your next certificate.

(you will not need to complete both types of training)

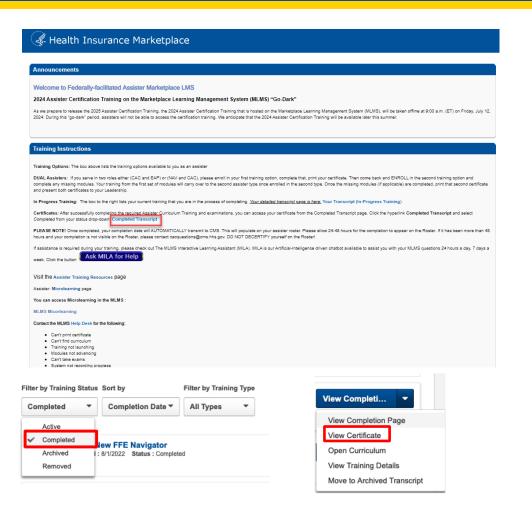


You will be credited for prior course completion. If taking similar curriculum you can navigate to the "Completed" section of the transcript.

#### **Print Certificate**

- 1. Select Your Transcript
- 2. Find Completed Curriculum
- 3. Print Certificate

# Step 1: Select Completed Transcript Step 2: Select View Certificate from Drop-down



- Under Training Instructions, select "Completed Transcript".
- Then select
   "Completed" from
   the drop-down
   menu.
- Select the training you wish to print the certificate for
- Then select "View Certificate".

# **Step 3: Print Certificate**

# **Certificate of Completion**



This certificate confirms that

Has successfully completed the following:

Certified Application Counselor Curriculum

Acquired on Expires on:

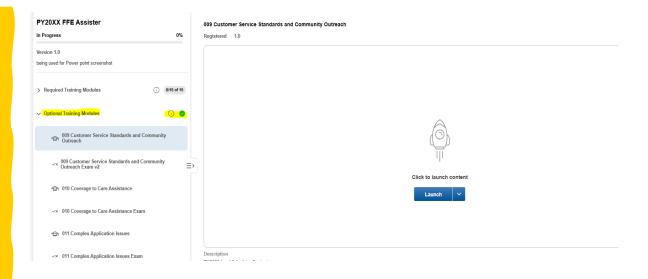
Completion of the CAC Curriculum may not fulfill the requirements to serve as a CAC under state law. To be fully certified as a CAC, an individual must comply with any licensing, certification, or other standards prescribed by the State, if applicable.

Please consult with your CDO and your state's Department of Insurance to ensure you are in full compliance.

# **Complete Optional Training**

Each of the Assister curriculum modules contain *optional* courses. If you choose to take the optional courses simply navigate to the optional section and launch the courses.

Launch the optional courses just like all the other courses. You can take individual courses or all courses. Note:
These courses are not mandatory.



# **Review Options**

In addition to relaunching a completed course to review content, we also offer microlearning modules on many topics. Microlearning modules are not required but provide a refresher and focus on navigating the Marketplace application successfully in a variety of scenarios.

https://www.cms.gov/marketplace/technical-assistance-resources/marketplace-assister-microlearning



On this site, you will find an optional selection of short and interactive microlearning modules to help you assist Health Insurance Marketplace consumers.

Navigating the Modules

Module Listing

Select the topic below to get started.











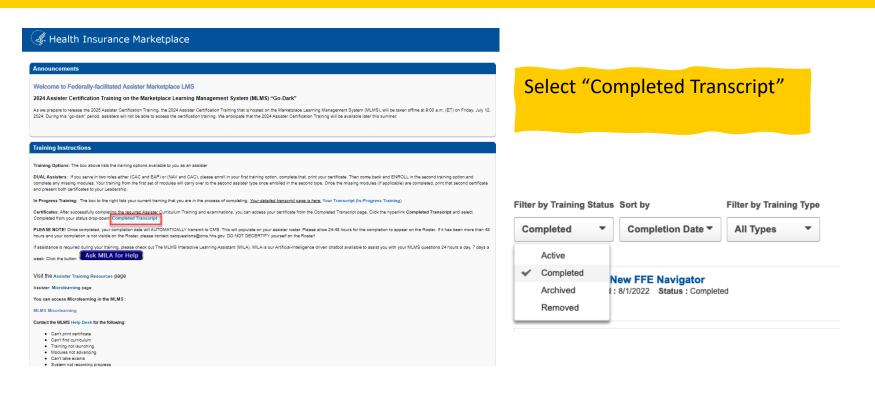


# **Relaunch Completed Course**

If you want to review a completed course:

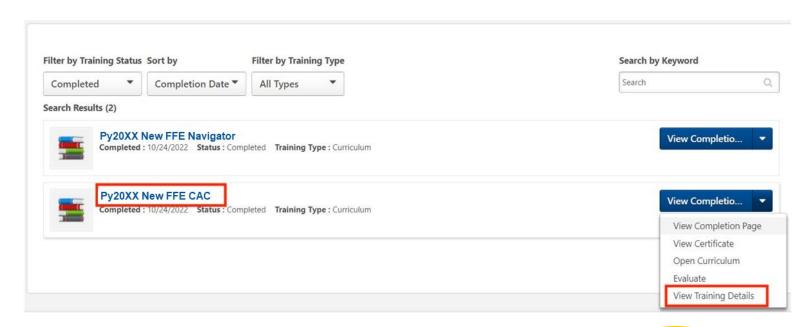
- 1. Navigate to "Completed" section of Transcript.
- Select "View Training Details" from "View Completion" dropdown.
- 3. Select "Launch" for the course you would like to review.

## **Step 1: Find the curriculum to review**



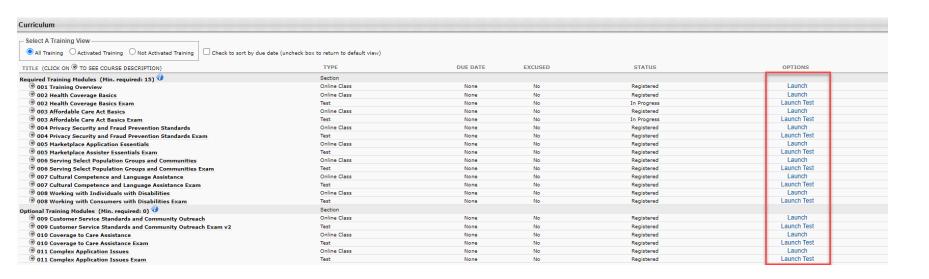
Be sure to change the filter to **Completed** to find the curriculum you wish to review.

# Step 2: Select the course and View Training Details



Select "View Training Details"

# Step 3: Open the details page and select Launch



Select "Launch" or "Launch Test"

Take the course or exam as normal when it is launched.

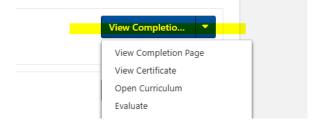
## **Assister Evaluation**

- 1. Complete Curriculum
- 2. Launch Evaluation (survey)

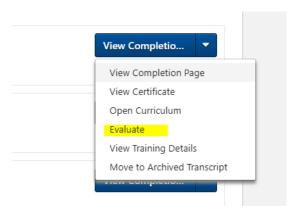
# **Step 1: Select Launch and Begin Evaluation**

After completing the curriculum and exams, you have the option to evaluate the learning content.

Select the "View Completion" drop down.



Select "Evaluate".



This is an opportunity to provide your feedback about how to improve the training.

# **Step 2: Complete the Evaluation**

Assister Feedback	
Ans	wer the questions.
Question 1.	
Select the Assister roles you will be performing this year. (Select as many as applicable.)	
FFE Certified Application Counselor FFE Navigator FFE Enrollment Assistance Personnel Returning FFE Certified Application Counselor Returning FFE Navigator Returning FFE Enrollment Assistance Personnel SBE-FP Other	
Question 9 .  Please list additional topics you'd like to see discussed on the annual certification training on the MLMS (in 250 characters or less)	Submit your answers or save to come back and complete it later.
Save / Return Later Submit Final Answers	

The **Evaluation** is launched to allow course feedback. Read the questions and answer accordingly.

## Resources

## **Help Desk Information**

#### **MLMS Help Desk**

Email: MLMSHelpDesk@cms.hhs.gov

- Can't print your certificate
- Can't find curriculum
- Training is not launching

#### **CAC Questions Help Desk**

Email: <a href="mailto:cacquestions@cms.hhs.gov">cacquestions@cms.hhs.gov</a>

- Error message; CAC ID not valid
- Issues that cannot be resolved by the other help desks

### **Manual ID Verification Help Desk**

 You have provided your **personal** information during the identity verification process, but the system cannot identify you Please contact the Marketplace Service Desk (MSD) for further assistance at 1-855-267-1515

### **CMS Enterprise Portal Help Desk**

Email: CMS FEPS@CMS.hhs.gov

• Phone: 855-267-1515

• User ID / Password Issues

No access to MLMS

#### **Navigators**

Email: <u>FFMAssisterCommunity@cms.hhs.gov</u> For any other issues, or if you cannot get your issue resolved, please email your project officer

### Include the following information:

- Screenshot(s) of issue
- Device and Browser

## Resources

## **Quick Reference Guides**

Quick Reference Guides are available on Marketplace under CMS Training for Navigators, Agents, Brokers, and other Assisters

https://www.cms.gov/marketplace/in-person-assisters/training-webinars/training

### You can also find help here:

**REGTAP**: For job aids, FAQ documents, reference guides, and pre-recorded webinar demonstrations, please visit

Registration for Technical Assistance Portal

On your "My Dashboard" page, select the icon "Marketplace Resources for Federally-Facilitated Assisters", then select the first option, "Assister Education & Annual Assister Certification Training Resources".