

2026 Annual Training Conference
April 28-30, 2026
Sanford Center, Bemidji, MN
SPEAKER PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDANCE



Guided by Purpose. Grounded in Values.

Important Dates

- November 15, 2025: Call for Presentations opens
- January 9, 2026: Call for Presentations closes
- Mid-late January 2026: Proposal acceptance messages sent
- Mid-February 2026: Speaker schedules confirmed
- February 27, 2026: Speaker Bios due
- March 27, 2026: Slides/Handouts due

Proposal Submission

Speaker proposals should be submitted using the online Submission Form no later than January 9, 2026. Use the following link to access the submission form: <https://forms.gle/A7V5fqsFrdckULen8>

Review & Selection

Conference planning committee will select presentations based on the following criteria:

- Needed and/or desired learning outcomes
- Alignment with conference theme
- Connection to anti-oppressive, inclusive practices
- Presenter experience and/or expertise
- Clarity of proposal
- We do not accept proposals for keynote speakers

Presentation Guidelines, Technology

- Focus your content on the goal or main lessons of your presentation.
- Use simple language and include story-telling and examples.
- Include audience interaction that is appropriate to the format and room setup; all rooms will be set theatre style. Workshops are 1.25 hours in length.
- Provide opportunities for interaction with the audience.
- Accessibility: Account for a variety of learning styles, abilities.

- Presenter bios and handouts will need to be submitted prior to the conference and will be posted on the registration website.
- You are responsible for bringing your laptop and any files for your presentation. (if you have a MAC, bring adaptor)
- Wifi, screen, projector, podium, handheld mic provided.
- Slideshow template will be provided (coming early 2026).

Schedule

Workshops will be scheduled for the following:

- Tuesday, April 28th- Afternoon sessions
- Wednesday April 29th- Morning sessions
- Wednesday, April 29th- Afternoon sessions
- Thursday, April 29th- Morning sessions

Every effort will be made to accommodate the speaker's preference, but it is not guaranteed.

Conference Theme & Information

Finding Our True North: Charting the Course



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Our Guiding Principles:

Purpose & Integrity- We are guided by our mission; Always our true North.

Vision & Inspiration- Like the stars, providing hope to people enduring poverty in uncertain times for a bright future.

Direction & Focus- Our compass guides us forward together, aligning our strategies with our mission.

Collaboration & Innovation- As we partner on this journey, we seek the best strategies to build thriving communities.

Reflection & Resilience- Through caring for each other and ourselves, we are equipped to carry on; Always forward.

Conference Themes Will Focus On:

Customer Focus- Addressing the unique needs of people enduring poverty and the latest trends/best practices in moving people towards social and economic stability.

Leadership- Being Leaders, Supporting Leaders, Creating Leaders.

Financial Integrity and Governance- Developing and maintaining solid fiscal practices, stakeholder engagement and accountability.

Program and Performance Management- Using the latest tools and technology to ensure quality data and evaluation to design services for the most promising outcomes.

Communication & Advocacy- Telling our story. Raising awareness. Leveraging support.

Well-Being- Caring for ourselves and one another.

Primary conference contact:

[Michelle Peterson](#)

