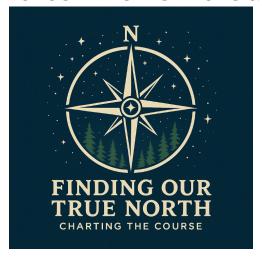
# 2026 Annual Training Conference April 28-30, 2026 Sanford Center, Bemidji, MN

# 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: <a href="https://forms.gle/A7V5fqsFrdckULen8">https://forms.gle/A7V5fqsFrdckULen8</a>

### **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

# <u>Presentation Guidelines, Technology</u>

- 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

