CALL FOR PROPOSALS GUIDING INFORMATION

This document provides guidance on how to help submit a strong proposal

Begin your submission here

All submissions must be completed by Friday, February 13

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APHSA

Timeline of Deliverables

Deliverable	Deadline
Open Call for Proposals	Friday, December 12, 2025
Close Call for Proposals	Friday, February 13, 2026
Review and Selection by Planning Committee	Completed by Wednesday, March 4
Notification to Accepted Presenters	By Tuesday, March 24
All Session Titles Finalized by	Friday, April 24
All Materials Submitted for CE Approval	Friday, May 1
Speaker and Moderator Training	Tuesday, May 5, 3:00 PM EDT
Final Presentation Materials Due	Friday, May 22
First Day of Conference	Sunday, June 14

Intent for the Event and Call for Proposals

Shape the future of human services at the upcoming American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) National Human Services Summit, June 14-17 in Arlington, VA. Join the nation's brightest leaders, innovators, and changemakers as we come together to listen, learn, and inspire one another to build strategies for improving the lives of individuals, children, and families across the United States and beyond.

This year's theme, *Leadership for a Stronger Tomorrow,* will provide opportunities for human services leaders from states, counties, municipalities, tribes, and territories to connect with one another and federal officials; to learn best practices, policy insights, and technology innovations; and to develop their leadership skills.

We are seeking inspiring submissions that:

- **Highlight innovative policy, practice, and system approaches to** outcome measurement and impact evaluation; data analytics and interoperability; technology and service delivery; social impact, community engagement; emergency preparedness and crisis-response; funding and procurement strategies, and other pressing issue areas across the human services ecosystem.
- **Elevate the important work of the human services sector** in empowering and strengthening families and driving meaningful, sustainable change in our communities as demonstrated in research, program evaluations, project outcomes, success stories.
- **Showcasing leadership strategies** that foster a sense of resilience, workforce well-being, productive collaboration, and deep impact.

American Public Human Services Association

How Content Will Be Organized

The next two pages highlight the areas in which we will organize the content.

CONTENT WILL BE ORGANIZED AROUND THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- **System Innovation and Transformation:** This track spotlights cutting-edge strategies in data, technology, and policy that reimagine how systems operate, optimize performance, and deliver superior, lasting outcomes for all served. Share your innovations in interoperability, artificial intelligence, system redesign, or funding models that build long-term sustainability, resilience, and widespread impact. Submissions that elevate trauma-informed approaches and lived experience are especially encouraged.
- **Practice Excellence Across Human Services Domains:** This track features proven and promising approaches from across human services domains, including aging, child care, child welfare, early childhood, disability, housing, food security, and economic support. We want to share how your policy-enabled innovations and cross-sector partnerships are improving results for individuals and families. Ideal for case studies and examples that translate evidence into real-world impact.
- **Workforce and Leadership Development:** This track focuses on strategies that strengthen workforce well-being, leadership capacity, and collaboration at every level. Share how your organization is supporting your workforce in adapting to H.R. 1, building belonging, or redefining the culture of human services work. Ideal for leaders and innovators shaping the future of the human services sector.
- **Building Sustainable Systems and Community Partnerships**: Sessions will highlight strategies for creating meaningful partnerships and sustainable systems to support human services in meeting the needs of their communities.

CONTENT WILL BE ORGANIZED AROUND THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- **Community-Driven Solutions:** Submissions for this track center community voice and the power of cross-sector collaboration to address pressing challenges and opportunities. Proposals will demonstrate how public agencies, nonprofits, and communities can move beyond service delivery toward true system transformation. Share how your community or partnership is co-creating solutions with those most affected by policy and practice decisions. Ideal for submissions grounded in collaboration and community and social impact.
- **Research, Evaluation, and Evidence in Action:** Built in partnership with the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics (NAWRS), this track elevates the role of research, evaluation, and evidence in driving measurable change. We invite studies, evaluations, and success stories that strengthen families and communities, especially those that demonstrate how research translates into effective practice. Includes opportunities to be featured in the Research to Practice Showcase.

- At the 2026 Summit, we will once again have our Research to Practice Poster Showcase. Within the Call for Proposals, you can submit your information to be considered for the poster showcase.

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APHSA WELCOMES PROPOSALS AND PRESENTATIONS RELEVANT TO CURRENT TOPICS AND PRIORITIES ACROSS HUMAN SERVICES, WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- Best practices and policy-enabled innovations across the wide spectrum of human services-related area: aging, adult services, child welfare, child care, child support, emergency preparedness, crisis response and resilience, early childhood, disability, housing, Medicaid, SNAP, TANF
- Human Services leadership development and agency workforce strategies for supporting recruitment and retention of staff, empowering a multigenerational workforce, promoting staff mental health and wellbeing, and building a culture of belonging.
- Collective action to advance belonging and outcomes in human services, such as by engaging people with lived experience in decision-making and implementing trauma-informed practices.
- Financing, procurement, and Advanced Planning Documents
- Topics related to Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Tribal Social Services, Tribal TANF and SNAP, and other related topics which are unique to tribal nations and territories.
- Community-engagement strategies and effective approaches for elevating the voices of people with lived experience (such as people with disabilities, people who have experienced or interacted with the child welfare system, and others who have received some type of human services.)
- Interoperability opportunities within and across systems and jurisdictions; data sharing, privacy and security lessons
- Data analytics and evaluation, dashboards, and performance objectives to promote continuous improvement and accountability
- Groundbreaking technology projects, including use of AI and machine learning, human-centered designs, with emphasis on concrete application for agencies in completing their work, engaging more effectively with customers in providing information and/or services
- Promising cross-sector partnerships focused on alignment in Medicaid, housing, public health, education
- New or ground-breaking research with implications for the human services sector

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SUBMISSION TYPES

Session Type	Definition	Notes
Interactive Sessions *that will spark learning and engagement*	Following a short presentation, session will engage and interact with participants.	• Recommend having a designated facilitator for time tracking
Panel Presentation	A panel of no more than four speakers *including* a moderator.	• Excellent way to showcase success stories • Private sector presenters are strongly encouraged to have state or local client present with them
Research to Practice Poster Showcase	This will be a static poster display where we will select a limited number of abstracts for a poster.	• These will be presented on Sunday evening during our Research to Practice Poster Showcase and Member Engagement Event

Research to Practice Poster Showcase Information

Building on our success with the research poster session, APHSA is partnering with the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics (NAWRS) to invite researchers, evaluators, and practitioners to visually present studies, pilots, and initiatives demonstrating how research, data analytics, and evidence are driving measurable, positive outcomes for individuals, children, families, and communities. Participants will engage directly with attendees to discuss results, methodologies, lessons learned, and implications for human services practice and policy. Held during the opening reception at our Summit, the poster showcase fosters dialogue; strengthens collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners; and accelerates the dissemination of evidence-based strategies shaping the future of human services.

We encourage submissions that:

- Demonstrate clear improvements in outcomes or service delivery informed by research or evaluation.
- Illustrate how evidence and analytics inform strategy, policy, or frontline practice.
- Highlight partnerships between agencies, academia, and community-based organizations that lead to measurable impact.
- Translate data and evidence into actionable insights that strengthen human services systems.

Accepted poster presenters will receive detailed specifications for poster dimensions, setup, and display times upon acceptance.

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What you need to start your interactive session or panel presentation submission

Gathering this information prior to starting each submission will be helpful

All fields marked with a red asterisk (*) are required

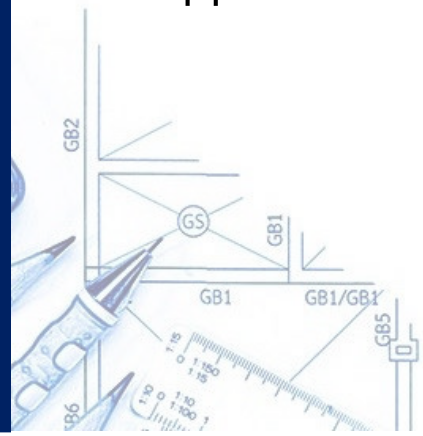
- Primary presenter's full name, title, organization, email, cell phone, photo, bio
- Co-presenter(s) full name, title, organization, email, cell phone, bio
- Session title – no more than 10 words, entered in title case
- Summary of your session – no more than 350 words
- APHSA will be offering continuing education units (CE) for approved sessions. All presenters will be required to upload a CV.
- Three (3) learning objectives (e.g., applied learning in an agency)
  - *What will an attendee take away that they can use immediately in their work?*
  - *What will an attendee be able to implement in their organization in the next 6 to 12 months?*
  - *How will the information presented in your session support an attendee in transforming their practice and/or agency?*

WHAT YOU NEED TO START YOUR RESEARCH TO PRACTICE POSTER SUBMISSION

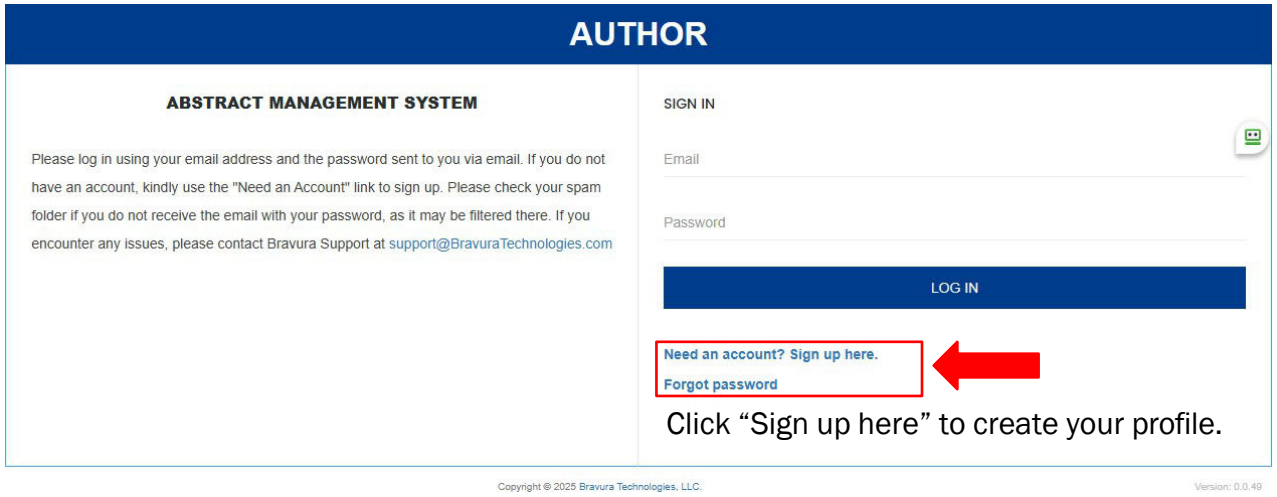
Gathering this information prior to starting each submission will be helpful

All fields marked with a red asterisk (*) are required

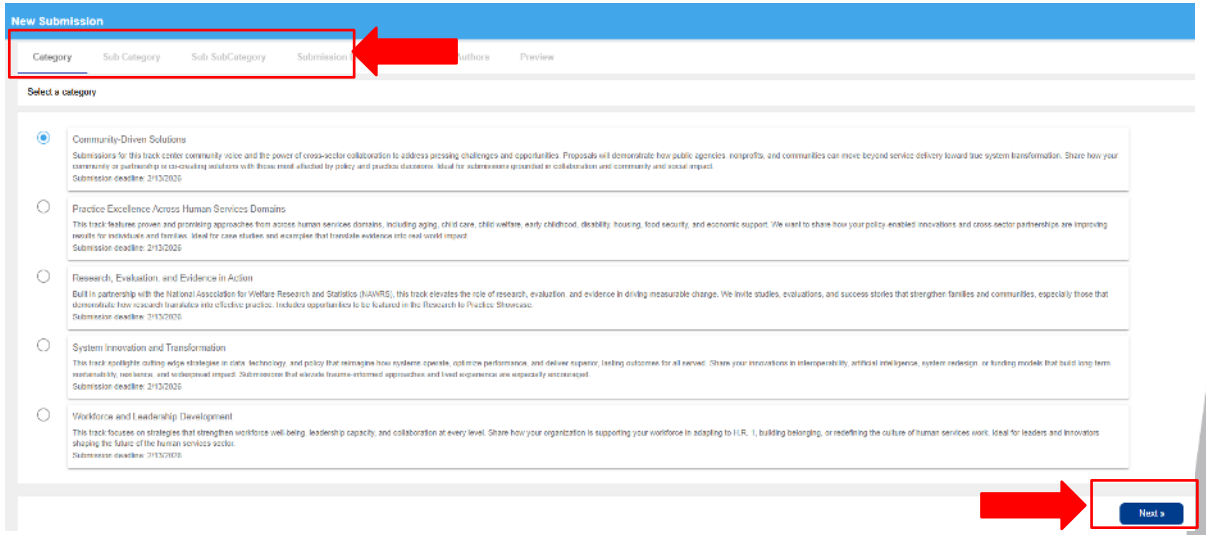
- Primary presenter's full name, title, organization, email, cell phone, photo, bio
- Co-presenter(s) full name, title, organization, email, cell phone, bio
- Poster title – no more than 10 words, entered in title case
- Abstract - a concise abstract (350 words maximum) that summarizes the purpose of the study, pilot, and initiative, the approach to the research, and the key outcomes
- Three (3) key takeaways
- APHSA will be offering continuing education units (CE) for approved sessions. All presenters will be required to upload a CV.



GETTING STARTED: USE *THIS LINK* TO ENTER THE SUMMIT CALL FOR PROPOSALS PORTAL



Click “Sign up here” to create your profile.



- You will receive an email including your username and password.
- Individual emails are required for each presenter.
- You cannot use the same email for all presenters.

- Follow each step to complete your proposal submission.
- Click “Next” to proceed to the next step.
- You will have the opportunity to return to the previous screen if you need to make any changes.

Once all required fields are completed, you will be able to complete your submission.

You can also save your work and come back to edit, as needed, until **Friday, February 13, 2026**.

Questions or Need Assistance?

- Throughout the submission process, you will find a “Chat” button at the bottom right of the screen. This will connect you with technical support for the submission portal.
- Contact the Events Team at aphsaconferences@aphsa.org for questions on content, deadlines, required materials, etc. This email is being monitored by the team and can expect to receive a response within 48 hours (2 business days), Monday-Friday.
- You may also reach out directly to a member of the Events Team:
  - Donna Jarvis-Miller, djarvis-miller@aphsa.org
  - Maurine Jones, mcjones@aphsa.org
  - Marie Comito, mcomito@aphsa.org
- For information on registration, hotel reservations, and other important updates visit the Summit website.