

Sample form, not for offline completion.

Visit <https://ancor.awardsplatform.com> to enter.

Session Proposal

Please note: Submissions will be considered **only** for the ANCOR Connect annual conference.

ENTRY FIELD: Use your **session title** as the **Entry Name**.
(Please ensure it matches the title listed in your Proposal Details tab.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

In the **ENTRY NAME** field, please enter your proposed **session title**.

Make sure it matches the title you include in the **Proposal Details** tab so we can keep everything aligned.

Entry name

Provide details below.

Session Title

7 words

Tips for Writing a Strong Session Title

Your session title is often the first thing people see—and sometimes the only thing they read before deciding to attend. A great title helps your session stand out and makes it easy for people to know what to expect.

Here’s how to make it work:

- **Be clear.** Say what people will learn or take away.
- **Make it feel timely.** Show why this session matters right now.
- **Highlight what makes it different.** What’s special or unique about your approach?
- **Be specific.** Avoid vague words—tell them exactly what it’s about.
- **Be honest.** Don’t overpromise. Your title should match the real content.
- **Keep it consistent.** Use the same title you entered on the Program tab.

Think of your title like a headline—it should be simple, direct, and make people want to learn more.

Tips for Writing a Strong Session Description

Think of your session description like an invitation. You want people to get excited and choose your session—so make it clear, interesting, and helpful.

Here's how:

- **Keep it short but strong.** Use every sentence to show why your session matters and what people will learn.
- **Start with a hook.** Begin with something that grabs attention—like a question, bold idea, or common challenge your session will tackle.
- **Focus on what attendees will take away.** Be clear about what people will learn and how they can use it in their work. Highlight the practical tools, ideas, or strategies you'll share.

Your session description is your chance to show the value of your presentation—and why it belongs at ANCOR Connect. Make it count!

Session Audience

- ☐ Advocacy & Government Relations Professionals
- ☐ C-Suite Leaders
- ☐ Communication Public Relations Professionals
- ☐ Compliance Professionals
- ☐ Direct Support Professionals
- ☐ Financial & Revenue Professionals
- ☐ Human Resource Professionals
- ☐ Innovation Professionals
- ☐ Organizational Operations Professionals
- ☐ Person-Centered Experience Professionals
- ☐ ...

Statement of Significance

500 words

(Minimum: Two Paragraphs)

Please use this space to tell us two important things:

1. Why this topic matters right now.

What's happening in the world, your community, or the field that makes this topic timely and important? Has there been a new policy, a shift in funding, a big industry change, or new research? Help us understand why this session needs to be part of the conversation today.

2. Why you're the right person to lead this session.

Tell us what makes your experience, insight, or perspective valuable. You can mention your job, education, years of experience, or even a personal story that connects you to the topic. If you have any results, feedback, or numbers that show impact, feel free to include those too.

This is your chance to show both the *urgency of the topic* and the *strength of your voice*.

Aligning Your Proposal with the 2026 Conference Theme

When submitting your proposal to become a presenter, please keep in mind that one of the key things reviewers consider is how well your session connects to this year's theme.

ANCOR Connect '26: Navigating the Now

ANCOR Connect is where ideas, partnerships, and purpose come together—and in 2026, we'll gather in Boston's Seaport District to do just that.

This year's theme, *Navigating the Now*, invites us to take a clear-eyed look at the realities we're facing today—from funding shifts and staffing shortages to new technologies and policy changes—and respond with creativity, courage, and connection.

At a time of constant change, we need more than big ideas—we need practical strategies, real-world solutions, and a renewed sense of focus and energy.

How to Align Your Proposal

As you write your session description and Statement of Significance, consider how your presentation will help attendees:

- Stay agile and responsive in today's rapidly shifting environment
- Build strong partnerships and meaningful community connections
- Leverage new tools, technology, or ideas to improve services
- Strengthen leadership, workforce strategies, or organizational resilience
- Explore person-centered practices that support belonging, dignity, and inclusion

Help us understand how your session offers **clarity**, **momentum**, and **practical value** in this moment—and why it belongs at ANCOR Connect '26.

Session Type

▼

Case Study

Fireside Chat

Lecture

Panel Discussion

Product Demonstration

Workshop

- Case Study**

These sessions share real examples of projects that worked well. Attendees will learn what was done, why it worked, and how to use those ideas in their own work. Provide useful tips and lessons they can apply right away.
- Fireside Chat**

A casual conversation between a guest speaker and a moderator. Attendees will hear personal stories, helpful advice, and honest reflections. There may also be time for questions from the audience.
- Lecture**

A more traditional presentation where one speaker shares their knowledge on a topic. They may use slides or visuals. Attendees will listen, learn, and usually have a chance to ask questions at the end.
- Panel Discussion**

A group of speakers talk about one topic from different points of view. A moderator helps guide the conversation. Attendees will hear a mix of ideas and often get a chance to ask questions.
- Product Demonstration**

These sessions show how a tool, app, or technology works. Attendees will see a live demo, learn what it can do, and have time to ask questions.
- Workshop**

Workshops are active sessions where attendees do the work—not just listen. Presenters might facilitate small group activities, practice new skills, or solve problems together. Attendees leave with tools they can use right away.

Experience Level

Beginner

Intermediate

Advanced

Specialist

All Levels

Beginner

These sessions are for people who are new to the I/DD field or just getting started. You'll learn basic terms, key ideas, and helpful practices to build a strong foundation.

Intermediate

These sessions are for people who already have some experience in the I/DD field. You'll go deeper into real-life examples, current trends, and useful tools to handle common challenges.

Advanced

These sessions are for people with a lot of experience in the I/DD field. You'll explore big-picture issues, new research, and innovative ideas for leading and improving services.

Specialist

These sessions focus on specific topics or roles. They are best for people looking to learn more about a particular area, like behavior supports, technology, or policy.

All Levels

These sessions are designed for everyone—whether you're new to the field or have been doing this work for years. You'll get useful information no matter your background.

Topic Area

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Policy, Law, and System Protection

Development and Fundraising

Leadership in Uncertain Times

Workforce Sustainability & Support

Service Innovation and Flexibility

Leadership and Organizational Development

Business Resilience & Financial Strategy

Data and Decision-Making

Person-Centered Supports & Quality

Equity and Access for All

...

Select the Topic Area That Best Matches Your Presentation

We use topic areas (also called *pathways*) to help group sessions and ensure we're offering content that meets the needs of our members.

Note: Final pathways will be selected by ANCOR based on the relevance, urgency, and value of the content submitted. Not all pathways may appear in the final program.

Policy, Law, & System Protection

Examples: Responding to policy changes, defending HCBS funding, using legal tools, advocacy strategies, compliance under pressure

Leadership in Uncertain Times

Examples: Ethical leadership, crisis planning, board/staff alignment, leading with clarity during change, trauma-informed supervision

Workforce Sustainability & Support

Examples: Staffing solutions, creative scheduling, staff wellness, shared workforce models, DSP career pathways

Service Innovation & Flexibility

Examples: Tech-supported service delivery, remote supports, co-designed models, alternatives to traditional settings

Business Resilience & Financial Strategy

Examples: Cost containment, forecasting, emergency budgeting, rate negotiations, making the most of limited resources

Data & Decision-Making

Examples: Using real-time data, dashboards for strategy, risk and quality monitoring, tracking impact in a shifting system

Person-Centered Supports & Quality

Examples: Maintaining person-centered values in crisis, flexible support planning, safeguarding dignity and autonomy, quality assurance

Equity & Access for All

Examples: Reaching underserved communities, supporting people with complex needs, addressing gaps in access during system strain

Community Connection & Belonging

Examples: Strengthening partnerships, building mutual support networks, staying connected when systems are disrupted

Lived Expertise & Direct Support Voices

Examples: Co-presented sessions, self-advocate stories, DSP-led innovation, peer-to-peer knowledge sharing

Session Objectives

Writing Clear Learning Objectives

Learning objectives help attendees know what they'll walk away with—and help us make sure sessions are useful and relevant.

Here's how to write strong objectives:

- **Be Specific.** Say exactly what people will learn related to the I/DD field.
- **Use Action Verbs.** Start with strong verbs like: **implement, apply, design, evaluate, explain**
This shows what participants will actually *do* with the content.
- **Make It Measurable**
Avoid vague goals. Focus on real outcomes or skills.
- **Focus on the Participant.** Use phrases like: **"Participants will be able to..."** to center their learning—not just your presentation.
- **Be Realistic.** Only include what can be taught or practiced during your session.

Examples of Strong Objectives:

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- *Identify three common barriers to service access for rural communities*
- *Apply two trauma-informed practices to support staff retention*
- *Design a basic tool for gathering feedback from people receiving services*

Community Belonging

At ANCOR, we believe people learn and grow best when they feel like they belong. That means feeling welcome, respected, and part of the conversation—whether you're presenting, participating, or just taking it all in.

As part of your session proposal, we invite you to share how your presentation will help create that sense of belonging. Please briefly reflect on the following:

Representation in Your Content

How will your session include a range of perspectives, experiences, or examples that help people feel seen?

Making Space for Everyone

What will you do during your session to make sure attendees feel comfortable, valued, and able to participate?

What You've Noticed Works

Have you received feedback that your sessions made people feel included or welcomed? If so, tell us what you learned.

Your insights will help us create a conference experience where everyone feels they truly belong.

Pre-Conference Interest

Pre-Conference Consideration Only

Yes

Maybe

No

Interested in Leading a Pre-Conference Workshop?

Pre-conference sessions are hands-on, interactive workshops that run for two hours on the morning of the first day of the conference.

If you'd like to be considered for a pre-conference workshop, you have two options:

Submit a new proposal specifically for a pre-conference session. Be sure to select **"Workshop"** as your session format.

Ask us to consider your current proposal for the pre-conference slot. Just choose that option from the **drop-down menu** in the form.

We know this might take extra planning, so it's totally fine to select **"Maybe"** or **"No"** if you're unsure right now.

Presenter Name

Please provide the following details for the lead presenter of your session:

- **Full Name:** Enter the name exactly as you'd like it to appear in the conference program.
- **Title and Credentials:** (Optional) Include any relevant professional titles or degrees (e.g., Dr., LCSW, MBA).

This helps us ensure your information is accurate and consistent across all materials.

Phonetic Spelling (optional)

To ensure we say your name the way *you* want it said, please provide a pronunciation guide using the format below:

- **Name:** Write your name as it should be pronounced.
- **Phonetic Spelling:** Use simple, familiar spellings (e.g., "Koh-ree" for Corey or "Suh-rah" for Sarah).
- **Breakdown by Syllable:** Split your name into syllables and add helpful notes (e.g., what it rhymes with or how it sounds).

Example:

Name: Sasha Sencer

Phonetic Spelling: Sah-sha Sen-ser

Breakdown by Syllable: Sah-sha Sen-ser (Sasha rhymes with "Marsha," Sencer rhymes with "center")

Thanks for helping us get it right!

Presenter Bio

200 words

How to Write a Great Conference Bio

Your bio helps people understand who you are, what you bring to the table, and why you're the right person for your session. Keep it short, clear, and connected to the topic. Here's what to include:

- Your name and job title
- Where you work or your main role
- Experience that connects to your session
- Any awards or big accomplishments
- Your specialty or focus area
- Relevant skills or knowledge
- Degrees or certifications (if helpful)

A short personal note – your approach, values, or something human that connects you to the work

Length: 3–5 sentences or about 150–200 words.

Tone: Use simple, clear language. Avoid jargon.

Connection: Be sure to show how your background relates to your session topic or the conference theme.

Example:

Dr. Mia Garcia is the Director of Research at ABC Organization, where she leads projects to improve accessibility for people with developmental disabilities. She has over 15 years of experience and is known for her community-centered approach. Mia earned her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from XYZ University and has been recognized nationally for her work on equity in research. She's excited to share new insights on [session topic] at this year's conference.

Presenter Position Title

10 words

Presenter Organization Name

Presenter Organization Type

I/DD Services Provider

Government Agency

Corporate Partner (e.g., supplier, consulting firm)

Advocacy Organization

University / Research Institution

Other

Presenter Organization State

AL

AK

AZ

AR

CA

CO

CT

DE

DC

FL

...

Presenter Email

Previous ANCOR Connect Presentations

2024: Santa Fe, NM

2023: Chicago, IL

2022: Miami, FL

2019: Portland, OR

N/A

Please indicate if you have previously presented at an ANCOR conference, if so, in what year was your most recent session.

Previous Presentation Experience (Optional) (optional)

We welcome presenters with all levels of experience—even if this is your first time presenting at a conference!

If you’ve presented before, feel free to tell us where, when, and what you spoke about. You can also share any feedback you received.

If you’re new to presenting, you can tell us about other experiences or skills—like training staff, leading meetings, or telling your story—that will help you lead a great session.

Please upload a headshot for each presenter using the following filename format:

FILENAME: YourName_photo

Example: Lopez_Mx_Alejandro_photo or Chen_Zhen_photo

We encourage you to use the name you’d like displayed in the conference program. This helps us keep everything organized—thank you!

Attachment Type

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Headshot	

File Name

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