

**DELIVERING  
SOLUTIONS 26**

AHCA/NCAL CONVENTION & EXPO  
OCTOBER 11-14, 2026 | BOSTON, MA

**CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS**

Submissions accepted from August 1 - October 31, 2025

[AHCADeliveringSolutions.org](http://AHCADeliveringSolutions.org)

AHCA  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF HEALTHCARE  
ADMINISTRATORS

NCAL  
NATIONAL CENTER  
FOR LONG-TERM  
CARE ADMINISTRATION

## **2026 Call for Proposals Submission Guidelines for:**

### **2026 AHCA/NCAL Convention and Expo**

### **2026 Quality Summit Conference**

#### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS:**

AHCA/NCAL is seeking educational proposals for two upcoming meetings:

- **2026 Convention and Expo** at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in Boston, MA October 11-14, 2026.
- **2026 Quality Summit** at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in Baltimore, MD, April 13-15, 2026.
- **2026 Population Health Management Summit** at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in Baltimore, MD, April 15-16, 2026.

As a long-term care professional, you understand the trends, issues, and challenges. Now is your chance to share ideas that reflect your best practices, lessons learned and professional insight, as well as programs that enhance long-term and post-acute care service.

**AUDIENCE CHARACTERISTICS:** AHCA/NCAL represents long term care facilities, providing care and services to more than one million elderly and disabled people. The Convention draws approximately 3,000 attendees, most of whom are facility owners, corporate management, administrators, and facility specialists. The Quality Summit draws over 300 attendees that includes directors of nursing, directors of clinical and regulatory services, administrators, and others.

The audience is diverse and includes experienced individuals and those new to the profession. They include both skilled nursing and assisted living providers. When selecting sessions, reviewers are looking for:

- Who is the session applicable to? – AL, SNF, SNF & AL
- What is the expertise level of the session? – beginner, intermediate, advanced
- Interactive Element: How does the speaker plan on engaging with the audience outside of Q&A?
- Current information and high-quality training.
- The content of the presentation should match the description and learning objectives.

- Key takeaways/action steps
- Visual appeal (consistent formatting, high quality visuals, uncluttered slides)
- Clear and concise slides (consider a single idea per slide)
- Logical flow
- Practical and immediately implementable information and ideas.
- Use of case studies, stories, and other techniques.
- Peer-to-peer learning; attendees appreciate hearing from fellow providers.
- No sales pitches.

## TOPICS

The following is a list of topics of interest to providers and will be sought by reviewers. A bulleted description of possible session topics that might be included in that track are also listed; additional session topics are welcome.

- **Assisted Living**
  - Workforce
  - Affordable AL
  - Behavioral health, bullying, aggression, grief, trauma, and Dementia Care
  - Marketing, including lead and referral generation.
  - Building design
  - Culinary, activity, ancillary services
  - Care technology, AI, innovation in AL
  - Emergency planning in AL
  - Infection prevention and control in AL
  - Person-centered care, level of care, medication management in AL, customer satisfaction
  - Data, quality improvement, Quality Awards in AL
  - Population in Health Management, integrated networks
  - Rising acuity in AL, risk/liability management
- **Behavioral Health & Dementia**
  - Innovative or successful practices in caring for individuals diagnosed with:
    - Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
    - Serious Mental Illness (SMI)
    - Co-Occurring Disorders (COD)
  - Innovative care models or practices for individuals living with dementia
  - Alternatives to medication use/Non-pharmacological interventions
  - Managing resident to resident interactions
  - Application of technology/telehealth in treating these disorders
  - Managing staff and resident safety amidst behavioral challenges
- **Clinical Care Practice**
  - Addressing clinical issues, such as:
    - Wound care/pressure injuries
    - Falls

- Weight loss
    - Depression
    - Rehospitalization
    - Medication management including psychotropic meds
    - Sleep issues
    - Pain management, including non-pharmacologic practice
    - Functional outcomes
  - Care planning
  - Transitions of care
  - Meaningful conversations for end-of-life decision making
  - Infection prevention and control
    - Any updated CDC guidance
    - Methods to increase consistency of use
    - MDRO and C.Auris
    - Enhanced barrier precautions
    - Antibiotic-stewardship
  - Telehealth and technology, including the use of AI in clinical practice
- **Customer Satisfaction/Experience**
  - Developing & maintaining positive relationships with families and residents
  - Turning complaints into compliments
  - Using satisfaction data to market your organization
  - How to improve customer experience scores
  - Managing customer reviews, including online reviews
  - Customer engagement
  - Managing satisfaction in a time of crisis
- **Emergency Preparedness**
  - LTC participation in Health Care Coalitions
  - Surge planning
  - Incident command training
  - All hazards approach
  - Staffing modifications
  - Natural disasters
  - Rapid evacuations
  - Communicating with families and staff including visitation
  - Impact of staff turnover on the EP plan
  - Local coordination models
- **(3) Keynote Presentations**
  - Resilience
  - Overcoming challenges
  - Motivation
  - Developing a personal mission

- **Operational Analytics/Technology**
  - Data management, including:
    - 5-Star
    - State Reporting
    - Payroll Based Journal (PBJ)
    - LTC Trend Tracker
    - SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP)
  - SNF VBP
  - Innovative technology trends in LTC, including artificial intelligence
  
- **Person Centered Care**
  - Reducing social isolation and loneliness, including use of technology
  - Use of technology to improve resident engagement and quality of life
  - Preventing abuse and neglect
  - Trauma informed care & cultural competency
  - Caring for LGBTQ+ residents and DEI
  - How to be person-centered during times of workforce shortages
  - Innovative approaches to resident councils, family councils
  - Modernizing facilities such as household type models
  
- **Quality Awards**
  - How to respond to the criteria at each level (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
  - How the Baldrige criteria can improve facility operations and outcomes
  - How applicants can use their Quality Award feedback reports for continuous improvement
  - QAPI and the Baldrige Criteria
  - How the Baldrige criteria prepares facilities for times of crisis
  - Building and sustaining excellence through Baldrige/Quality Awards
  - How the Quality Award criteria can support regulatory preparedness for centers
  
- **Quality Improvement**
  - Quality improvement basics
    - Use of data to inform practice
    - Root cause analysis
    - Improvement methods, such as Plan-Do-Study-Act
  - High reliability practices
  - Just culture
  - Interrelationship of systems, processes, culture and communication
  - Technology to support continuous quality improvement
  
- **Reimbursement and Alternate Payment Models**
  - Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM)
  - Census
  - Population health
  - I-SNPs, SNPs, networks, etc.
  - SNF Value-based purchasing

- Clinical Integration of a Network
- Emerging supporting technology
- Change of ownership
- Create effective systematic processes
  
- **Survey/Regulatory and Risk Management**
  - Best practices for survey preparedness
  - Top 10 survey tags and deficiencies
  - Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) Process/Independent Informal Dispute Resolution (IIDR) Processes
  - How to prevent citations for abuse and neglect
  - Drug regimen review
  - How to effectively write a Plan of Correction
  - Facility assessment and staffing competencies
  - Substance Use Disorders
  - Past Noncompliance
  
- **Workforce Solutions and Leadership**
  - Workforce recruitment, development, and retention
  - Staffing planning and competency
  - Pipeline planning and leadership training
  - Resiliency and stress management
  - Diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace
  - Supporting staff dealing with grief and trauma
  - Technology and innovations related to successful workforce practices
  - Creating a workforce focused culture

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION & SPEAKER AGREEMENTS:** When submitting proposals for consideration by the AHCA/NCAL Professional Development planning team, you understand and agree to the following policies and guidelines:

- **ONLINE SUBMISSIONS ONLY:** Proposals must be submitted via the Abstract Scorecard system. We will **not** accept, or review proposals sent by fax, regular mail or e-mail.
- **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS:** A maximum of three proposals may be submitted from a single individual or organization for each conference. A fully completed application must accompany each proposal. All speakers must be identified at the time of submission and their full contact information (name, title, mailing address, and email address) must be provided. Some exceptions may apply on a case-by-case basis.
- **CALL OPENING DATE:** August 6, 2025
- **DEADLINE:** All proposals must be received by **October 31, 2025**.
- **SPEAKER EXPENSES/HONORARIA:** AHCA/NCAL has earned a reputation for providing high quality educational programs. We select speakers who share their expertise for the overall benefit of the sub-acute, long term care profession. Therefore,

AHCA/NCAL **does not pay honoraria, or expenses.** However, chosen speakers will receive **complimentary, non-transferable** full conference registration (additional events are not included).

- **NUMBER OF SPEAKERS PER SESSION:** Speakers are limited to no more than two for a 60 session. Panels should be limited to three panelists plus a moderator. Speakers above the maximum per session will not be guaranteed a complimentary event registration. If you have questions about this registration policy, please contact Shawnetta Walker, Manager, Education and Events at [swalker@ahca.org](mailto:swalker@ahca.org).
- **TRAVEL AND HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS:** Speakers are responsible for making their own travel reservations. AHCA/NCAL cannot make or modify hotel or flight arrangements on behalf of the speaking faculty. It is recommended that hotel reservations be made as soon as you are confirmed to the program and have received Speaker Housing details from AHCA/NCAL.
- **COPYRIGHT:** By submitting your presentation idea, you are certifying that the work is your own. If the work or a portion of the work is not your own, then you certify that you have permission to use the work and that proper attribution is given to the work's creator.
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCE LIST:** All speakers/speaking teams will be required to upload a bibliography/reference list indicating all the sources used in the development of the presentation.
- **SHARING:** You understand that if your proposal is selected, you give permission for it to be used in the AHCA/NCAL online learning system for one year from the date it is presented. After one year, the presentation will be removed from the online center. If there is an interest in keeping the presentation active beyond the one-year period, AHCA/NCAL will seek your approval.
- **SUBMISSIONS and OTHER AHCA/NCAL CONFERENCES:** If your submission is not chosen for the annual Convention or Quality Summit, it will be shared with the state affiliates as well as with the planners of additional smaller AHCA conferences.
- **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:** You understand that AHCA/NCAL educational programs are not platforms for selling products or services. Overt sales pitches will not be tolerated. Speakers will be asked to disclose financial interests.
- **CONFERENCE HARVESTER:** All speakers will be given a Conference Harvester account in our event management system. Speakers are required to fully complete all the requested tasks by the deadlines. Your cooperation allows for the convention website and app to be populated with the correct information.
- **PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT:** It is understood that by submitting your proposal, you will demonstrate high standards of professional conduct and will not discriminate against session attendees based on age, gender, socioeconomic or ethnic background, sexual orientation, or ability.
- **SESSION FOCUS:** The goal of convention professional development sessions is to meet the needs of provider attendees with highly targeted programming. Proposals must demonstrate the recognition of the shared and unique characteristics of all long term and post-acute constituencies.
- **AV INFORMATION:** We provide the equipment needed to deliver seminars effectively – laptop, screen, projector, remote slide advance, a wireless lavalier microphone for each speaker, Wi-Fi access, and house sound.

- **POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS:** Speakers are required to prepare a PowerPoint presentation in the AHCA/NCAL corporate template that will be provided to attendees electronically in our mobile app and online learning center. Other handout materials are welcome in addition to the required PowerPoint (i.e.: white papers, articles, etc.). All PowerPoints are converted to un-editable PDFs once they are submitted. If you present as part of a speaking team, slide decks must be combined into one final deck before being submitted. Speakers are expected to bring their PowerPoints on a flash drive to load into the provided laptop in each session room at Convention and the Quality Summit.
- **QUIZ QUESTIONS:** All convention presenters or presenting teams will be required to submit quiz questions as a separate upload from their PowerPoint presentations. These quiz questions are NOT for use during the presentation. Quiz questions are used in the online learning system to provide an opportunity for attendees to earn additional CEs and connect those who could not attend the session in person with the material. The questions cannot be True/False or Yes/No. They should be multiple choice. The number of quiz questions required are as follows:
  - 60-minute sessions = 5 questions
  - 120-minute sessions = 10 questions.

If you are unable to agree to any of the above statements, please contact Shawnetta Walker, Manager of Education and Events at [swalker@ahca.org](mailto:swalker@ahca.org) before completing your submission.

## SELECTION & NOTIFICATION

Proposals are reviewed by a team of long-term care experts for:

- Relevance to the needs of Convention and/or Quality Summit attendees
- Overall quality, originality, and timeliness
- Use of instructional methods and organization
- Practical, results-oriented applications.

Individuals submitting proposals will be notified in writing on or before March 31, 2026, regarding the results of the selection process. Prior to that date, AHCA/NCAL **cannot** accept phone calls or emails inquiring about the status of proposals. Potential speakers should tentatively reserve all conference dates to ensure availability.

Due to the volume of submissions, AHCA/NCAL **will not provide feedback** on sessions that are not selected for the convention program.

The **2026 POPULATION HEALTH MANAGEMENT SUMMIT** is the premier event for advancing leadership in long-term and post-acute care (LTPAC) within the rapidly evolving landscape of value-based care. As the healthcare industry continues its shift toward outcomes-driven models, this summit equips leaders with the strategies, tools, and insights needed to lead transformative change.

We are seeking dynamic proposals that offer forward-thinking perspectives, actionable strategies, and real-world solutions to improve care delivery, enhance patient outcomes, and drive organizational success in LTPAC settings.

## **POPULATION HEALTH MANAGEMENT SUMMIT AUDIENCE CHARACTERISTICS:**

This high-impact, intimate event brings together over 150 senior leaders across the LTPAC continuum—including CEOs, CFOs, COOs, CMOs, CNOs, administrators, provider-led health plan staff, and other key decision-makers. Attendees value deep engagement, peer learning, and strategic dialogue that sparks innovation and collaboration.

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS:**

We invite thought leaders, practitioners, and innovators to submit proposals for breakout sessions, workshops, or panels aligned with one of two curated tracks:

### **TRACK 1: FOUNDATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN POPULATION HEALTH MANAGEMENT**

Designed for those new or moderately experienced in value-based care, this track focuses on foundational knowledge, practical implementation, and early successes in population health management.

#### **SUGGESTED TOPICS:**

- Institutional Special Needs Plans (I-SNPs) and Institutional Equivalent SNPs (IE-SNPs)
- Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs): Basics and early-stage strategies
- Integrating Primary Care: Ownership, partnerships, and contracting models
- Emerging Models: Introduction to the GUIDE and TEAM models and their implications for LTPAC
- Bridging the Gap: Case studies and lessons learned from moderate experience in value-based care
- Data & Analytics: Driving decisions and measuring impact
- Technology Integration: Tools to streamline care and support value-based goals

### **TRACK 2: ADVANCED STRATEGIES IN VALUE-BASED CARE AND SPECIAL NEEDS PLANS**

This track is tailored for experienced professionals seeking to deepen their expertise and explore cutting-edge strategies in value-based care and special needs plans.

#### **Suggested Topics:**

- Advanced I-SNP Strategies: Optimization, innovation, audits, and overcoming challenges
- ACOs at Scale: Integration, performance improvement, and advanced tactics
- Next-Generation Models: Deep dives into emerging frameworks transforming LTPAC
- Strategic Partnerships: Aligning with payers, providers, and community resources
- Financial Sustainability: Risk management and ROI in advanced value-based models

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** Proposals will be evaluated based on relevance to the selected track, strategic insights and innovation, practicality, and potential to engage and educate attendees.

Due to the volume of submissions, AHCA/NCAL **will not provide feedback** on sessions that are not selected for the Convention, Quality Summit and/or Population Health Management Summit programs.

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