

2026 Institute Call for Presentations



Proposal Deadline: 11 p.m. Thursday, June 19, 2025

About the Event

The annual LeadingAge Minnesota Institute & Expo is the premier conference for older adult services providers. The 2026 Institute theme will be Changemakers. It will be held Feb. 11 - 12, 2026 at the St. Paul RiverCentre, St. Paul, MN and features two days of cutting-edge education, special events, a packed expo hall, and countless networking opportunities. A virtual Institute component follows on March 3-5, 2026. Presentations are typically selected for in-person or virtual, but not both components.

About the Audience

Where They Work

Throughout the continuum of older adult services in Minnesota – adult day programs, assisted living settings, independent living settings, care centers, and home care.

How Many Participate?

Approximately 3,000-3,500.

Who Attends the Institute?

From interdisciplinary team members to direct line staff to CEOs/key leaders. The majority are experienced professionals. The smallest group is just starting out in the field. We try to reflect those percentages in our choice of programming and offer more deep dive sessions for experienced professionals.

What Does Our Audience Expect from Institute Sessions?

- High quality, interactive education.
- Seasoned professionals – advanced level training that is interactive and draws out deep prior knowledge.
- Newer professionals – foundation knowledge and skills development – particularly in the areas of management and supervision.
- Practical information and ideas they can take back and use in their settings.
- Tools they can use to make them more productive and/or improve operations.
- Programs without sales pitches. Promotional presentations are not allowed.

About the Sessions

- Length – 60 minutes/one-hour
- Format – a combination of presented information AND interactive learning
- Number – ~100 between in-person and virtual components

Topic Areas for Proposals

See the list at the end of this guideline for program ideas.

- Top priority: *Workforce* is our members' biggest challenge. Extra consideration will be given to program proposals that assist them with recruitment, retention, training staff, and other solutions. New ideas or solutions taken from other industries are highly encouraged.
- Other Required CEU topics:
 - Cultural responsiveness and ethics-related topics specifically for Minnesota licensed social workers.
 - Sanitation and ethics related topics for dietary/nutrition/food services professionals.
 - DEI – for most licensed groups.

What's the Criteria for Evaluating Proposals?

- Advanced level content reflected in learning objectives and session descriptions.
- Innovation, creativity, and originality of topic.
- Clarity, depth, and specificity of proposal.
- Timeliness and relevance of subject matter to the specific setting/audience.
- Incorporates interactive learning strategies into the program design.

- Practical applicability of topic to aging services settings.
- Qualifications and experience level of presenter(s).

What Would Cause a Program Not to Be Considered for a Review?

- It fails to meet all guidelines or is incomplete.
- It is clearly focused on selling a product or service to the audience.
- It is a repeat submission from prior years.
- There are multiple submissions on the same topic.

Who's Going to Be Evaluating the Proposals?

The 2025 Education Committee, provider member volunteers, and the LeadingAge Minnesota education staff.

LeadingAge Minnesota's Speaking Policies for CFP Submissions

To help keep registration costs affordable for its members, LeadingAge Minnesota does not pay honoraria, travel, per diem, or other costs for CFP speakers in a live or virtual environment. In addition, speakers are responsible for all expenses incurred in the development and implementation of their presentation(s). PowerPoints for CFP presentations are required. All speakers are invited to participate in the Institute during the day of their presentation(s) as LeadingAge Minnesota's guest. Registration fees apply to attend the full conference.

About Submitting Your Proposal

- Complete one application per proposed session by **11 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2025**.
- You will receive an email acknowledging receipt for each proposal submitted.

Other Important Things You Need to Know

- All prospective speakers are required to keep the dates of Feb. 11 - 12, 2026 and March 3-5, 2026 available until notified of the status of their proposal.
- Speakers will be notified of LeadingAge Minnesota's decision regarding proposals by late October 2025.
- ***Please no phone calls or emails regarding the status of proposals during the selection process.***

Questions? Contact Sharon Hollister at shollister@leadingagemn.org.

Suggestions for Proposal Topic Areas

Activities / Therapeutic Recreation – Mini Track Focus for 2026	Regulatory
Integrating the Community into your Setting	Assisted Living Licensure Requirements
Integrating Person-Centered Care into Activity Planning	Occupational Safety and Health Requirements
Adapting Activities for Residents with Varying Abilities	Data Privacy in Senior Living Environments
Therapeutic Recreation Documentation and Outcome Measurement	Adult Day Services Licensing
Planning a Diverse Calendar: Incorporating Intergenerational Events, Multicultural Observances, Lifelong Learning Opportunities, and/or Resident-Led Clubs	Minnesota Vulnerable Adults Act (including reporting requirements)
Use of Technology/Innovative Approaches to Activities	Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board
Maintenance / Environmental Services – Mini Track Focus for 2026	Technology
Building and Grounds Maintenance	Telemedicine
Life Safety Code and Maintenance	Effective Technology Implementation and Integration Strategies
Preventive Maintenance Plans and Schedules	Cyber Security/HIPAA Security
Sustainability in LTC Communities	Increasing Staff Efficiency through Technology
Emergency Preparedness (both nursing home and assisted living requirements)	Resident/Client Technologies
Physical and Rehabilitative Therapy – Mini Track Focus for 2026	Health Records Interoperability and Health Information Exchange
The Role of Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapists in LTC Settings	Practical Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Aging Services
Best Practices for Specific Therapy Modalities	IT Budgeting and Project Planning
Navigating Documentation and Compliance	IT Strategy and Operational Infrastructure

Pain Management Through Physical Modalities	Outsourcing IT Services (strategies, best practices, etc.)
Spiritual / Pastoral Care – Mini Track Focus for 2026	Culinary / Dining / Nutrition
Supporting Residents, Families, and Staff with Loss and Grief	Person-Centered Culinary Services
Engaging Residents, Families, and Staff in Planning and Decision Making	Planning for Today's Residents Preferences; Culturally Inclusive Menus
Ethical Decision Making for LTC Professionals	Menu Planning; Modified Diets
Advance Directive Planning	Role of the Dietary Manager
Clinical	Behavioral Health
Building Clinical Competencies	Conducting a Behavioral Health Assessment
Infection Prevention	Determining Target Behaviors, Interventions, and Implementation
Care Transitions	Cognitive Testing for AL Residents
Palliative and End of Life Care	Care of Residents with Substance Abuse Disorders
Disease Specific Care	Mental Health Diagnoses, Symptoms, and Treatments
Medication Safety (including medical marijuana/THC/CBD care concerns)	Understanding and Working with Personality Disorders
Assessments	Dementia: Types, Stages, and Approaches to support Maintenance of Abilities and Quality of Life
Quality and Performance Excellence	Governance / Boards
Innovative Strategies to Impact Specific Quality Measures	Adjusting Strategic Visioning/Planning for the Current Landscape
Strategies or Approaches for Effective Quality Programs	Board Member Recruitment, Diversity, or Onboarding
Safety Science/Safety Culture	Quality Oversight
Engaging Staff Across the Organization in Quality	Supporting Diverse Communities (residents, staff, city, etc.)
Resident Quality of Life/Partnering with Residents	How to Work with Board as a New Site Leader
Process/System Improvement	Legal
Data-Driven Decision-Making	Contract Terminations (SNFs and ALs)
Strategies for Creating an Effective Quality Management Program in Assisted Living	Discharges (SNFs and ALs)
Leadership	Appealing/Disputing Survey Results or Enforcement Remedies
Building Team Trust	Best Practices for Conducting an Investigation in a Long-Term Care Facility
Leading with Confidence (communication, debunking imposter syndrome, etc.)	Balancing Safety and Resident Rights (including with monitoring technologies)
Delegation	Employment Law Issues (e.g. collective bargaining, earned safe and sick time, paid family and medical leave, etc.)