

2027 Institute Call for Presentations



Deadline: 11 p.m. Thursday, June 18, 2026

About the Event

The annual LeadingAge Minnesota Institute & Expo is the premier conference for older adult services providers. The 2027 Institute theme will be 60 Years Strong: Leading Change. Changing Lives. It will be held Feb. 10-11, 2027 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, St. Paul, Minnesota and features two days of cutting-edge education, special events, a packed expo hall, and networking opportunities. A virtual Institute component follows on March 2-4, 2027. 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, nursing homes, 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 advanced 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 – foundational knowledge and skills development.
- Practical information and tools they can take back and use in their settings.
- 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 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, originality, and specificity of topic and 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 2026 Institute Working Group, provider member volunteers, and the LeadingAge Minnesota education staff and subject matter experts.

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 and will be requested in advance. 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 18, 2026**.
- 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. 10-11, 2027, and March 2-4, 2027 available until notified of the status of their proposal.
- Speakers will be notified of LeadingAge Minnesota's decision regarding proposals by the end of October 2026.
- **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

Behavioral Health	Quality, Safety, and Performance Excellence
Conducting a Behavioral Health Assessment	Innovative Strategies to Impact Specific Quality Measures
Determining Target Behaviors, Interventions, and Implementation	Strategies or Approaches for Effective Quality Programs
Cognitive Testing for AL Residents	Safety Science/Safety Culture
Care of Residents with Substance Abuse Disorders	Human Factors and High Reliability
Mental Health Diagnoses, Symptoms, and Treatments	Practical Application of Technology to Drive Quality and Safety
Understanding and Working with Personality Disorders	Engaging Staff Across the Organization in Quality
Dementia: Types, Stages, and Approaches to Maintain Abilities and Quality of Life	Resident Quality of Life/Partnering with Residents
Applying Social Work Principles in Assisted Living and Long-Term Care	Process/System Improvement
Clinical	Data-Driven Decision-Making
Building Clinical Competencies	Strategies for Creating an Effective Quality Management Program in Assisted Living
Infection Prevention	Workforce
Care Transitions	Leadership: Developing Diverse Staff into Leaders, Making the Transition from Peer to Leader/Supervisor, Benefits of Cross-Training Staff, or Succession Planning
Palliative and End of Life Care	Onboarding - Specific Applicable Practices or New Approaches
Disease Specific Care	Conflict Management – Resident to Staff Conflict/Harassment
Medication Safety (includes medical marijuana/THC/CBD care concerns)	Effective and Inclusive Communication between Frontline Staff, Managers, and Executive Leadership
Assessments	Employee Wellness and Benefits Case Studies/Panels (e.g., housing, childcare, mental health supports, community programs, benefits cliff, etc.)

Culinary/Dining/Nutrition	International Recruitment Planning Process and Best Practices (specific to MN)
Person-Centered Culinary Services	Pipeline Building with Schools, Workforce Centers, Community Job Skills/Employment Organizations (specific and actionable)
Planning for Today's Residents Preferences; Culturally Inclusive Menus	Mentoring Models for Long-Term Care Teams (e.g., traditional, reverse, peer-to-peer, or implementation, etc.)
Menu Planning; Modified Diets	Workplace Violence Prevention and Safety
Role of the Dietary Manager	Human Resources in Aging Services (e.g., employee/resident investigations, employment law, compliance, benefit/leave strategy, compensation, etc.)
Governance/Boards	Long Term Care Workforce Expectations (e.g., remote culture, "gig" jobs, short-shifts, flexible schedules, changes in the skills/experience of job candidates, etc.)
Adjusting Strategic Visioning/Planning for the Current Landscape	Recruiting "Non-traditional" Workers (e.g., older adults, students, retirees, men in caregiving roles, leveraging volunteers, etc.)
Board Member Recruitment, Diversity, or Onboarding	Recruitment and Retention in Rural Communities
Quality Oversight	Retention (e.g., building inclusive cultures, employee engagement, professional development, recognition, flexible schedules, etc.)
Supporting Diverse Communities (e.g., residents, staff, city, etc.)	Cultural Competency in Resident Care
Legal	Fund Development – Mini Track Focus for 2027
Contract Terminations (SNFs and ALs)	Workforce-Focused Fundraising: Scholarships, Career Ladders, and Retention
Discharges (SNFs and ALs)	Capital Campaigns in a Tight Market
Employment Law Issues for Long Term Care Providers (e.g., collective bargaining, earned safe and sick time, paid family and medical leave, etc.)	Funding Innovation or Positioning "Non-traditional" Needs to Donors (e.g., smart rooms, AI monitoring, sustainability upgrades, etc.)
Best Practices for Conducting an Investigation in a Long Term Care Facility	Planned Giving and Major Gifts
Balancing Safety and Resident Rights (includes monitoring technologies)	Grants and Public/Private Partnerships
Appealing/Disputing Survey Results or Enforcement Remedies	Community and Relationship-Based Fundraising
Regulatory	Home and Community-Based Services – Mini Track Focus for 2027
Assisted Living Licensure Requirements	Care Model Innovation
Occupational Safety and Health Requirements	Innovative Workforce Models for HCBS (e.g., universal workers, team-based care, technology integration, outing requirements, staffing ratios, etc.)
Data Privacy in Senior Living Environments	Rural Service Delivery
Adult Day Services Licensing	Strategies to Support Aging in Place Across Diverse Communities
Minnesota Vulnerable Adults Act (includes reporting requirements)	Health and Welfare (e.g., balancing risk and choice, risk assessment and mitigation strategies, new quality measures, etc.)
Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board	Marketing and Sales – Mini Track Focus for 2027
Emergency Preparedness in Long-Term Care (e.g., evacuations, MOUs, preparing for and managing EP portion of survey, etc.)	Importance of Team Collaboration in Budget and Census Goal Setting (e.g., marketing and sales, administrators, operations, finance, nurse leadership, etc.)
Technology	Innovative Ways to Attract Residents and Staff (for small sites/budgets)
Telemedicine	Digital Marketing Strategies
Effective Technology Implementation and Integration Strategies	Sales Training
Cyber Security/HIPAA Security	Anticipating/Responding to Changing Consumer Preferences
Increasing Staff Efficiency through Technology	Using Artificial Intelligence in Sales and Marketing
Resident/Client Technologies	Payment – Mini Track Focus for 2027
Health Records Interoperability and Health Information Exchange	State Medicaid Program Case Mix Transition for SNFs (new versus old system)
Practical Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Aging Services	DHS Auditing Practices and Their Impact on Medicaid Rates for SNFs
IT Budgeting and Project Planning	PPS Rates: How PDPM Impacts Provider Revenue (Medicare)
Interoperability and Data Sharing Across the Continuum	Adult Day Service Rates – EW/CADI/Veterans
Data Governance	Elderly Waiver Rate Determination and How to Work with Case Managers
IT Strategy and Operational Infrastructure	Value Based Purchasing
Outsourcing IT Services (e.g., strategies, best practices, etc.)	Private Equity in Long-Term Care and Senior Living