



50th Annual Conference

September 28 – October 1, 2026

Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch in St. Louis, Missouri

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

You are invited to submit a proposal to present during the 2026 Consumer Voice Annual Conference! We are traveling to middle America and want you to join us!

Each year, Consumer Voice hosts a conference to educate and empower consumers and consumer advocates. The conference covers long-term care issues, including current trends, best practices, advocacy opportunities, and new research. Our conference gives attendees the opportunity to learn, network, and exchange ideas with advocates from all over the country.

The 2026 Conference will be in-person, and conference plenaries and workshops will be livestreamed. The conference will be held September 28 to October 1, 2026, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Instructions for submitting a proposal are below. You may submit more than one proposal.

Who Are We?

Consumer Voice is the leading national voice representing consumers in issues related to long-term care, helping to ensure that consumers are empowered to advocate for themselves. We are a primary source of information and tools for consumers, families, caregivers, advocates, and Ombudsman program representatives to help ensure individualized, quality long-term care.

To carry out our mission, we:

- Advocate for public policies that support quality care and quality of life responsive to consumers' needs in all long-term care settings.
- Empower and educate consumers and families with the knowledge and tools they need to advocate for themselves.
- Train and support individuals and groups that empower and advocate for consumers of long-term care.
- Promote the critical role of direct-care workers and best practices in quality-care delivery.

Consumer Voice envisions a world in which all consumers of long-term care services and supports are treated with respect and dignity and have a wide range of affordable, quality options across all settings.

What Makes Our Conference Unique?

The Consumer Voice Annual Conference offers programs that focus on advocating for quality long-term care and consumer empowerment. In 2025, we had more than 300 in-person and 150 virtual attendees from 40 states. Attendees include individuals receiving long-term care and services, State Long-Term Care Ombudsmen and their program representatives, representatives of Federal and State government, citizen advocates, researchers, family members, attorneys, and other advocates.

We accept proposals from citizen advocates, resident and family councils, Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs, researchers, care providers, and others who are involved in advocacy for long-term care consumers.

We Are Looking for Proposals That...

Create an engaging, informative conference agenda by providing resources, tools, opportunities for discussion, and strategies our attendees can incorporate in their life and/or advocacy. Proposals should include:

- Concrete advocacy strategies,
- Examples of advocacy and/or educational programs for individuals or systems advocacy,
- Issues related to nursing homes, assisted living, and/or home and community-based services,
- Opportunities for discussion, questions, and/or sharing of advocacy successes and challenges related to the topic, and
- Information attendees can use in their daily life or work to improve the quality of long-term care.

Session Format

We offer 75-minute concurrent workshops. All workshop and plenary sessions will be livestreamed and recorded. Sessions should include opportunities for audience involvement. We encourage you to join with colleagues to form a panel discussion but with no more than 3 presenters.

Proposal Submission

All proposals must be submitted using our [online process](#). **Proposals are due by April 5, 2026.** Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered.

There are 2 easy steps to submit a proposal!

1. Review the **Call for Proposals** and **Presenter Requirements** included in this document.
2. Submit your proposal [online](#). **NOTE:** You will not be able to save incomplete submissions in SurveyMonkey, so you may want to review and print or save the [PDF version](#) of the proposal questions so you can plan your responses prior to starting the submission.

Proposal Review and Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated and selected based on relevance to current issues and topic emphasis. Proposals that demonstrate engaging format, style, clarity, creativity, originality, and interest to the specified target audience are desired.

Please keep in mind the following criteria to be used by the selection committee. Does the proposal:

1. Include innovative and concrete strategies for long-term care advocacy?
2. Provide practical information and solutions of applicability for others throughout the country?
3. Include opportunities for discussion or questions and practical “take-aways” for attendees?

NOTE: Workshop presentations will not be used for marketing. Consumer Voice reserves the right to exclude proposals intended to promote specific products or services.

Important Dates

- Submission:** Deadline for submission is **April 5th**
- Notification:** Presenters will be informed of a decision by **May 22nd**
- Acceptance:** Presenters must confirm acceptance by emailing llaubert@theconsumervoice.org by **June 7th**
- Registration:** Presenters must register and pay for the conference by **August 14th**
Speakers are eligible for a discounted registration rate.
- Submit Materials:** Deadline for sending presentation PowerPoints and other materials is **September 18th**

Presenter Requirements

1. The presentation will support the [mission](#) of Consumer Voice.
2. The presentation will be interactive and have opportunities for conversations and/or questions.
3. There will be no more than 3 presenters for each session.
4. **Presenters must register and pay applicable conference registration fees.** Speakers are eligible for a discounted registration rate. Sessions will be withdrawn and replaced if presenters have not registered and paid by **August 14th**. Speakers unable to register for any reason must contact Lori Smetanka, lsmetanka@theconsumervoice.org.
5. The lead presenter is responsible for making all other session presenters aware of these requirements.
6. Descriptions of sessions accepted as part of the conference program will be posted online. Consumer Voice reserves the right to edit the session description and will notify the lead speaker of any edits.
7. Presenters must send their presentation slides and any other handouts to Consumer Voice no later than **September 18th** via email to llaubert@theconsumervoice.org.

8. Presenters are not to include any commercial endorsements or selling of specific products or services during their sessions. Opportunities to participate as a Sponsor or Exhibitor are available; email info@theconsumervoice.org.
9. All presenters agree to have their session livestreamed and recorded.

**Questions? Contact Lori Smetanka,
lsmetanka@theconsumervoice.org.**