

2026 Resident's Voice Challenge

National Consumer Voice for
Quality Long-Term Care

Join us
at the Table



RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH 2026



Every October, Residents' Rights Month is designated by Consumer Voice to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities and consumers receiving care in their homes and communities. The 2026 Residents' Rights Month theme is **Join Us at the Table**.

Creative writing and artistic expression are meaningful and compelling ways to highlight the importance of residents' rights and how these rights can be carried out in all long-term care settings. The Resident's Voice Challenge encourages residents to submit essays, poems, artwork, drawings, or videos related to the theme.

How to Participate

This year's theme encourages residents to share their experiences, preferences, and traditions around food and dining, and for those around them to listen to their stories, uplift their voices, and work collectively towards ensuring that meals reflect dignity, choice, respect, and community.

To highlight these stories, Consumer Voice will be creating a recipe book featuring a selection of residents' recipes, meal traditions, and the memories that surround them. We are seeking **residents' favorite recipes**, as well as stories, pictures, videos, artwork, poems, or any other medium residents choose. If there are favorite facility recipes that residents help prepare, we'd love to see those too!

Residents can submit their recipes using our [recipe collection form](#).

Use these questions to inspire you:

- How does your facility engage and include residents in menus and mealtime?
- What is your favorite recipe? Why is it meaningful to you?
- What makes your meals and dining experience positive?
- What is one food, tradition, or dining experience that matters to you and why?

How to Submit:

- Email submissions to info@theconsumervoice.org.
 - Include a mailing address with your submission for residents to receive certificates of participation.
 - Video and audio submission options:
 - [Upload your video to YouTube](#) and send us the link.
 - Email us the MP4 video file. If the file is too large to email, let us know at info@theconsumervoice.org, and we can arrange the transfer of large files.
 - Learn about more options for submitting your video entry [here](#).
 - Each person included in the video must sign and submit a [release form](#).
 - Artwork and photo submissions: Take a high-resolution photo of your artwork and email the JPG or PNG file as an attachment to info@theconsumervoice.org. Do not send images in the body of the email, as the file is sometimes compressed.
- Mailed submissions: Submissions may be mailed to Consumer Voice, 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036.
 - Mailed submissions must be received by the deadline, July 10th, and will not be returned.
- We will accept [recipe collection forms](#) via email and mail.

Participation Criteria and Rules

- Submit recipes using our [recipe collection form](#).
- The deadline for submissions is **July 10, 2026**. **Note the early deadline in order to be considered for inclusion in the book.**

- **Submissions must be produced by a long-term care resident/consumer.** This can include residents of nursing homes, assisted living, independent living, or individuals receiving long-term services in their homes or community. Relatives, friends, and facility staff may be involved in assisting residents/consumers with the challenge but may not submit their own entries without creative involvement of at least one long-term care resident/consumer.
- **Submissions must be original content created by a long-term care resident/consumer.** We cannot accept coloring pages or reproductions/reprintings of existing artwork, poems, or essays.
- **Any photo or video submission must be accompanied by a photo/video release form and signed by anyone appearing in the photo or video.** Find the release form here:
<https://theconsumervoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/release-form-26.pdf>.
- Consumer Voice maintains the right to utilize entries in a variety of forums including the Residents' Rights Month packet, its websites, its products, and other mediums determined appropriate by Consumer Voice. Consumer Voice reserves the right to use submissions, including the photographs and videos and/or likenesses contained therein for promotional and publicity purposes, at any time, including, but not limited to, posting on the Consumer Voice/NORC websites and Consumer Voice/NORC social media pages, inclusion in promotional materials, products and other materials, and for display at the Consumer Voice Annual Conference.

Questions? Email info@theconsumervoice.org.