

# Accelerating Health Equity Conference | Call for Content



The American Hospital Association’s Community Health Improvement (ACHI) network and its Institute for Diversity and Health Equity (IFDHE) are bringing together leaders from hospitals, health systems, public health departments and community organizations for the annual Accelerating Health Equity Conference. Taking place in Atlanta, the 2025 conference will provide leaders in the field with the space and resources to imagine, innovate and make impactful change. Attendees will learn about and discuss insights, tools, promising practices and success stories that will help them address barriers that prevent access to high quality, equitable care in their communities and ultimately improve health and health equity throughout the country.

Join us in Atlanta on **May 20-22, 2025**, for the **Accelerating Health Equity Conference: Imagination, Innovation and Impact**.

If you’d like to lead the important conversations taking place both at conference and around the country, submit a content proposal a breakout session or story slams by **September 16, 2024, at 11:59pm CT**.

Contact us with questions at [HealthEquity@aha.org](mailto:HealthEquity@aha.org).

**[Apply here!](#)**

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## Why Submit a Proposal

Speakers accepted to the Accelerating Health Equity Conference receive the following benefits:

- Gain exposure as a prominent health equity leader
- Enhance your ability to present your data and tactics to various audiences
- Take advantage of opportunities to network with peers and learn about the most recent advances in health care
- Recognition of your organization's work on a national stage
- Enjoy discounted registration rate to attend the full conference

## CONTENT AREAS

The Accelerating Health Equity Conference welcomes proposals that feature replicable leading-edge tactics, thought leadership and experts in the field, particularly in the content areas listed below.

### **Building Authentic and Sustained Community Engagement and Partnership**

Hospitals and health systems, public health organizations, community service organizations, businesses, and community members have long partnered on initiatives to improve community health and ultimately accelerate health equity. Co-designing community strategies is foundational to creating equitable community health strategies, and integrating the voice and lived experience of communities is a key ingredient to establishing strong partnerships. Moving the needle on health equity requires cross-sector alignment to address societal factors, a shared vision, coordination of data and resources, and meaningful and consistent engagement of community members at all stages.

*Content submissions in this area should discuss innovative, replicable cross-sector partnership models and/or community engagement tactics that create opportunities to co-design, implement and evaluate strategies that address the societal factors that influence health and make improvements upstream.*

### **Understanding and Meeting Individuals' Health and Social Needs**

Hospitals and health systems work in and with communities to improve health outcomes of their patient populations by addressing medical and social needs. Doing so equitably requires practicing cultural humility and supporting activities that improve culturally appropriate, person-centered care in partnership with communities and public health and social care providers.

*Content submissions in this area should discuss innovative, replicable tactics to better understand and meet the medical and social needs of individuals. This includes successful screening for health-related social needs; data-driven interventions, partnerships and practices to meet individuals' social needs; and more direct engagement of the community's and individual's priorities for health by incorporating individuals with lived experience into program development, implementation, and evaluation.*

### **Establishing Systematic and Shared Accountability and Building Diverse Leadership and Governance**

As health systems and community organizations evolve and sustain their approach to health equity, diversity and inclusion, systematic and shared accountability with diverse leadership and governance is vital. Organizational infrastructure that supports shared accountability can include the presentation of policies and practices that incentivize sustaining equity within the health care system; integrating equity approaches in staff training and onboarding orientation; creating councils; designating equity champions and including employees, patients and communities when setting strategies, priorities and key

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performance indicators. Additionally, diversifying leadership ranks requires taking intentional approaches to representing the populations and communities served. Sharing leadership talent pipeline strategies, approaches to board diversification and policies that promote diverse representation are welcome.

*Content submissions in this area share innovative, replicable tactics that generate policies and practices for positioning equity as a health system's core value. Additionally, content that focuses on overall organizational strategy, tracking progress, and leadership support and development is welcome. This includes solutions for cultivating internal and community-based talent for diverse leadership and board positions.*

## Creating Equitable and Inclusive Workplaces

There are many ways to create organizational climates and cultures that promote equitable and inclusive workplaces. Policies and practices that articulate the value of including multiple perspectives in the workplace are critical pathways to sustaining equity in health care. Approaches that integrate equity into the organizational culture of hospitals and health systems are welcome.

*Content submissions in this area should discuss innovative, replicable tactics to create equitable and inclusive workplaces through employee and organizational policies and interventions, talent cultivation, retention, recruitment efforts and more.*

## Other Emerging Topics

Along with the content areas above, we are particularly interested in sessions that highlight programs and initiatives with demonstrated success in the following areas:

- Community-based and/or community-informed clinical strategies to improve maternal health and reduce disparities in health outcomes for pregnant people and infants
- Differential impact of climate on community populations and the health system's role
- Assuring equitable outcomes for the LGBTQIA+ population
- Addressing equitable access and outcomes for persons with disability and for aging populations
- Community-based approaches to violence prevention

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## PRESENTATION FORMATS

The AHA is committed to highlighting content of the highest caliber that expands conference attendees' knowledge base and fosters peer learning. We are seeking experienced presenters who can transfer their knowledge, demonstrate actionable tools and engage conference participants in discussion.

Successful proposals will:

- Address practical needs of attendees from diverse professional backgrounds and organizations
- Highlight key takeaways and how-to strategies for advancing health and health equity
- Focus on evidence-based, replicable models
- Demonstrate value and measurable impact
- Encourage engagement and interaction from attendees

### Breakout Sessions

Concurrent breakout sessions provide an opportunity to share successful strategies with a broad audience. There are three different breakout session opportunities: Panel sessions, Deep dive sessions and Workshops. Most sessions will be organized as panels, with fewer deep dive and workshop-style sessions.

- **Panel Sessions**

Panel sessions will feature multiple presenters who deliver informative and practical content, convey knowledge, demonstrate actionable tools, highlight key takeaways and focus on replicable models and measurable impact. This can involve presentations, case studies, demonstrations or sharing success stories. These sessions will be organized by common themes and **may be combined with 1-2 additional proposals** into a panel-style presentation or discussion. We have seen that sessions are stronger when paired together! If submitted proposals are combined, a member of the conference education committee will facilitate an introductory meeting and support the combined session participants as needed until the conference. Each session will last 60 minutes with at least 15 minutes reserved for attendee Q&A and interaction.

- **Deep Dive Sessions**

Deep dive sessions are an extended and intensive exploration of a specific topic area led by a moderator. These sessions are designed to go beyond surface-level discussions, providing attendees with comprehensive insights, facilitated discussions, and practical applications related to the chosen subject matter. Deep dive sessions should encourage active engagement, networking and collaborative learning among attendees.

### Workshops

Workshops allow attendees to actively learn, discuss, and participate in practical activities focused on a specific topic area. Workshops should be interactive and include group exercises, hands-on demonstrations, and facilitated discussions. Creative learning strategies should be employed to engage participants actively. This might include interactive elements, group activities or audience polls to foster engagement. The session should encourage discussion and questions, involving participants in meaningful conversations related to the topic. This type of session is designed to provide participants with practical knowledge, tools, and strategies that they can apply directly in their health care organizations or community. Each workshop will last 2-3 hours and has an additional fee for attendees to secure their spot.

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## **Story Slam**

We are seeking original content about your organization's initiatives to improve community and population health and advance diversity, equity and inclusion to present "story slam" style in lieu of a traditional poster session.

Accepted proposals will be grouped into topic clusters and provided with guidance on how to structure their story. Story slam presenters will provide a seven-minute overview of an issue your organization has addressed through innovative approaches, specifically addressing the issue, along with the intervention and lessons learned.

The story slam will take place during a dedicated time at the conference that has yet to be determined. One person should serve as the lead presenter; additional attendees from the organization(s) represented are invited to join the session as contributors.

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

Submitted proposals will be evaluated by a panel of experts according to the following criteria:

- **Demonstrated impact** – Highlights the collection and use of data to drive action and measure results. Shows the outcomes or impact on advancing health equity, both in terms of successes and failures.
- **Collaborative** – Integrates the patient and community voice and showcases the effectiveness of working with different organizations to reach a common goal.
- **Application to practice/transferable** – Showcases models and tools that can be adapted and presented to audience members' own hospitals, organizations or community settings. Focus on the “how” vs. the “why.”
- **Innovative** – Extent to which the program or initiative displays innovation or originality.
- **Sustainable and scalable** – Highlights sustainable and measurable practices that can be scaled beyond a small pilot.
- **Relevance** – Extent to which the proposal addresses the conference theme and selected content area.
- **Clarity** – Extent to which the proposal offers a clear description of the proposed session and practice-oriented learning objectives.

PLEASE NOTE: To preserve the integrity of the conference experience, AHA has a policy of **not selling** services, products or future consulting assignments during presentations. All accepted breakout session speakers will be asked to sign a speaker agreement that includes this policy.

We strongly recommend all proposals include at least one presenter from a health care organization (hospital/health system or similar entity). **Submissions that feature vendors or consultants as presenters will likely not be included in the submission review process. If your organization is interested in designing a breakout session or pre-conference workshop, please visit the [Sponsor Opportunities page](#).**

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## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Proposals must be submitted electronically. Proposals that are incomplete or do not follow the submission guidelines will not be considered for selection.

### Step 1 – Presenter Information

You will first need to sign into or create a profile.

If you are submitting on behalf of someone else and are not a presenter, please indicate this by entering “SUBMITTER ONLY” in the “Title” field and leave the rest of the fields empty. Then add the presenter(s) via the blue "Add Another Presenter" button.

All presenters will receive a confirmation email upon submission. Please notify any individual you are adding as an additional presenter about their involvement in this submission before adding their name.

### Information needed for all presenters (\*Required)

- \*First Name
- \*Last Name
- \*Email Address
- \*Title
- Credentials
- \*Company
- Biography (1,000 characters, please do not submit a CV)

### Step 2 – Session Information

1. **Session title** (up to 100 characters)
2. **Goal:** (250 characters) Tell us briefly about the goal of the work you will be sharing.  
Example: This session will outline how to implement a comprehensive SOGI data collection program from planning to launch and include gaining internal/external buy-in, and staff and patient education plans.
3. **Short description** (up to 3,000 characters) of the proposed presentation: including the take-home value and impact for audience members.
  - a. Explain what your presentation will cover regarding the topic and problem presented.
  - b. Describe the issue, lessons learned, and solutions developed to address the issue. Be sure that your proposal discusses the uniqueness of your findings, along with their significance.
  - c. Focus on addressing the problem clearly and concisely, rather than addressing your mission and goal.

You are encouraged to use Bloom’s taxonomy and relate your proposal to the conference theme: *Accelerating Health Equity: Imagination, Innovation and Impact*. **We strongly suggest using the Accelerating Health Equity Conference guide to help your proposal stand out:** <https://equityconference.aha.org/system/files/media/file/2024/08/AHEQ-2025-5-Tips-Call-for-Content.pdf>

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4. **Learning Objectives (3)** for the audience from the presentation (up to 300 characters):  
These should emphasize the information or tools that attendees can apply to their work.
5. **Preferred presentation format:** breakout session, combined breakout session (panel), story slam, workshop, or no preference.
6. **Content area** to which the presentation best relates (choose one):
  - Building Authentic and Sustained Community Engagement and Partnership
  - Understanding and Meeting Individuals' Health and Social Needs
  - Establishing Systematic and Shared Accountability and Building Diverse Leadership and Governance
  - Creating Equitable and Inclusive Organizations
  - Other Emerging Topics

The following questions will help conference planners ensure that a variety of sessions are offered and create a robust agenda for attendees.

7. **Topic**
  - Age-friendly health systems
  - Behavioral health
  - Chronic diseases (cancer, diabetes, hypertension, sickle cell, etc.)
  - Climate and community health
  - Complex care
  - Data (REAL, SOGI)
  - Digital health
  - Disability
  - Faith-based care
  - Food insecurity
  - Homelessness/housing security
  - Infant health
  - Maternal health
  - Patient centered care
  - Pediatrics
  - Pediatric screening
  - Rural health
  - Screening
  - Social isolation
  - Trauma-informed care
  - Veterans' health
  - Workforce
8. Choose primary **state** represented in the session.
9. Choose the primary **geographic environment** (select one)
  - Urban
  - Rural
  - Suburban



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## Step 3 – Review and Submit

You have the option to save and edit or submit later. Edits can be made until the deadline. The presenters will receive a confirmation email once submitted.

## NOTIFICATION

All submissions will be evaluated by AHA, and presenters will be notified of their acceptance status by early December 2024. If selected, your name, biography, presentation title and session details will be made available on the Accelerating Health Equity Conference website and conference mobile app by March 2025. Conference attendees will receive your presentation via the mobile app.

We anticipate receiving more high-quality proposals than we can include in the conference agenda. We may contact you about featuring the proposed content through another component of the conference or share the proposal with AHA colleagues seeking additional educational content.

## CONFERENCE FEES

**All presenters are responsible for their own travel, accommodation expenses, and registration fees for the conference.** Confirmed presenters will receive a discount code to register for the conference at a rate of \$575.

*Please note:* if you are submitting on behalf of a group, please inform the selected speakers about the discounted rate. If your organization wishes to pay registration for speakers in your session, we can help to facilitate that on the back end.

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## TIMELINE

PRESENTER TIMELINE	
<b>PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS DUE</b> All proposals must be submitted electronically.	Monday, September 16, at 11:59pm CT
<b>NOTIFICATIONS SENT</b> AHA will notify all applicants of their application status via email.	Early December 2024
<b>SPEAKER AGREEMENT DUE</b> All accepted session presenters must fill out the speaker agreement form via Cvent to confirm conference participation.	January 15, 2025
<b>SESSION FACILITATION</b> AHA staff and/or the conference education committee will connect with session speakers and provide any needed support and answer logistical questions.	January/February 2025
<b>SESSION DETAILS CONFIRMED</b> The conference agenda is scheduled to go live in March 2025. Therefore, one presenter will need to approve and finalize session details (title, description, speaker names, etc.) via Cvent. Changes <i>can</i> be made after this date due to emergency speaker changes or additions, but we recommend presenters finalize all changes in Cvent up until a week before the conference.	February 20, 2025
<b>SESSION MATERIALS DUE</b> Presenters must submit final slides and other materials via Cvent. Presentations will be available to conference attendees via the conference mobile app. Materials mentioned during the session that were not included originally can be added after the event.	April 30, 2025
<b>ACCELERATING HEALTH EQUITY CONFERENCE</b>	May 20-22, 2025

**Please note that this document is only meant to prepare you for the online application process.**

**The actual application must be submitted via the [online platform](#) by **Monday, September 16, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. CT.****

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