



Call for Proposals

Together We Rise: Resilient by Nature

April 19–21, 2027 | Virginia Beach, Virginia

Share Your Expertise. Shape Virginia's Future.

vaACCSES invites you to lead, inspire, and inform at the 2027 Provider Conference. This year's theme, ***Together We Rise: Resilient by Nature***, celebrates the strength and shared purpose that define Virginia's disability services community. We are looking for bold ideas, proven practices, and honest conversations that equip providers, empower people with disabilities, and inform the leaders who shape policy and funding.

If you have something to teach, a story to tell, or a solution worth sharing then we want to hear from you.

About vaACCSES

vaACCSES is Virginia's statewide network of advocates, professionals, and friends committed to advancing the rights, opportunities, and well-being of people with disabilities. For more than 50 years, vaACCSES has supported community-based providers and championed meaningful employment and quality community supports for Virginians with disabilities. Our members come together to share best practices, strengthen the provider community, and bring a unified voice to public policy discussions.

About the Conference

The vaACCSES Provider Conference is the premier annual gathering for disability service providers across the Commonwealth. This event brings together frontline staff, managers, and executive leaders for networking, thought-provoking educational sessions, public policy dialogue, and innovative business solutions. Attendees leave with practical tools for today's work and strategic direction for what lies ahead.

Your Audience

Your session will reach a diverse, engaged, and mission-driven audience:

- **Providers of services for people with disabilities from across Virginia:**
 - direct support professionals, supervisors, program managers, and executive leaders from employment, day, residential, and community-based service organizations.
- **People with disabilities:**
 - self-advocates, service recipients, and individuals with lived experience whose perspectives keep our work grounded and accountable.
- **State leaders and decision makers:**
 - agency leaders, policymakers, and system partners who shape the programs, rules, and funding that affect Virginians with disabilities every day.

Priority Session Topics

We are especially seeking proposals in the following areas. Innovative ideas that connect to our theme but fall outside these topics will also be considered.

- **Cybersecurity + Ethical Use of Technology / Artificial Intelligence Technology** is transforming how services are delivered, documented, and experienced. Help us navigate it responsibly. Share strategies for protecting sensitive data, responding to cyber threats, and using AI and emerging tools in ways that are ethical, person-centered, and compliant, while expanding access and independence for the people we support.
- **Youth Pathways, Transition, and Community Integration Showcase** the programs, partnerships, and practices that help young people with disabilities move confidently from school to work, further education, and full participation in their communities. We welcome stories of successful collaboration among schools, families, providers, employers, and community partners. Also challenges and how to overcome them.
- **Integrated Resource Teams, Case Coordination, and Collaboration Great** outcomes happen when teams work as one. Share models, tools, and lessons learned for building effective integrated resource teams, strengthening case coordination, and breaking down silos across agencies, providers, families, and individuals.
- **Ethics, Professional Practice, and Workforce Well-Being Resilient** services depend on resilient people. Explore ethical decision-making, professional standards, and the realities of the workforce, including recruitment, retention, burnout prevention, advocacy and strategies that help staff feel valued, supported, and well.

Session Format

We welcome a variety of formats, including breakout sessions, panel discussions, interactive workshops, and facilitated roundtables. Please indicate your preferred format on the interest form.

All sessions will be capped at 50 minutes, including Q&A.

What We're Looking For

Strong proposals will:

- Center the voices and experiences of people with disabilities
- Connect clearly to the conference theme and at least one priority topic
- Offer practical, real-world takeaways that attendees can apply right away
- Include current, evidence-informed, or field-tested approaches
- Engage participants through discussion, examples, demonstrations, or interactive elements
- Demonstrate effective advocacy avenues and techniques
- Reflect Virginia's policy and service landscape where relevant
- Be accessible and inclusive in content and delivery

Key Details

CONFERENCE DATES

April 19–21, 2027

LOCATION

**Sheraton VA Beach Oceanfront Hotel
Atlantic Ave**

PROPOSAL DEADLINE

November 15, 2026

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE

December 1, 2026

INTEREST FORM

[Click Here!](#)

QUESTIONS?

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