



# Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to announce that the **38th Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day Conference and Fair** will be held on **Thursday, May 28, 2026 at the Niagara Falls Convention Center.**

During the last 38 years, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day has evolved into the biggest conference for developmental disabilities. Over the years, we have brought in wonderful keynotes, entertainment, an art room, vendor fair, awards, healthy you corner and so much more. However, it would not be a success without our presenters. People with disabilities, parents and professionals from the Western New York area have worked together to present a comprehensive, informative conference about developmental disabilities.

The Program Committee is seeking presentation/workshop submissions that meet the needs of a diverse group of conference attendees. Presentations that offer a collaborative, practical model that can be utilized by other people or programs with similar needs will be given preference. All presentations should be designed to last **1 hour in length. Conference proposals, designed solely to promote an agency or an agency's services, will not be considered.**



If you, or someone else within your agency, are interested in presenting, please complete the enclosed **Presentation Information Sheet**. The Program Committee will review all proposals. Each submission must include all the requested information.

- The Committee will consider the following criteria when making their decision: relevance to the conference attendees, practical application, past presentation experience, innovation, and quality of the presentation content.
- The ideal number of presenters for each workshop should be a maximum of two. (You may have two additional presenters; however lunch will only be provided for two presenters per workshop.)
- When designing your presentation proposal, please note:
  - The presentation area is set up as lecture-style only.
  - Wi-Fi is available throughout the building.
  - Screens and projectors are available in each room. Please indicate if you require these items. Laptop computers are **not** provided.
- All contributors will be notified of the Committee's decision by March 13, 2026. Detailed conference arrangements will be sent at that time. All presenters selected for participation in the conference will have the registration fee waived and lunch will be provided for up to 2 presenters.
- If you are interested in presenting, at both the AM and PM sessions, please indicate that on the Presentation Information Sheet.
- If you require your presentation to be during a specific session time, please indicate on the Presentation Information Sheet including the reason for needing a specified time slot. The committee will make every effort to accommodate the request.

**Presentation Information Sheets must be submitted to the  
Program Committee by Friday, January 30, 2026.**

Please e-mail all applications by the submission date to **devdisday@gmail.com**  
If there is a hardship with e-mailing your submission please contact: Susan Kueker at (716) 796-8731 or Jennifer Zolnowski at (716) 332-4177.



### Presentation Information Sheet

**Target Audience:** Persons with a disability\_\_\_\_ Directors/Administrators \_\_\_\_ Clinicians \_\_\_\_  
Family Members\_\_\_\_ Managers \_\_\_\_ Direct Support Professionals \_\_\_\_  
Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Equipment Needs:** If you need a screen and projector please indicate:  
Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

**Presentation Needs:**

Do you require the AM or PM to present?  
Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ Which session do you need? AM\_\_\_\_ PM\_\_\_\_

If yes why \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to present in both the AM and PM?  
Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

**Type or Print legibly. All information needs to be completed on this form.**

**Presenters:**

For each presenter list their title and agency affiliation for the brochure

Presenter 1: Name\_\_\_\_\_ Title\_\_\_\_\_ Agency\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Presenter 2: Name\_\_\_\_\_ Title\_\_\_\_\_ Agency\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Presenter 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Title\_\_\_\_\_ Agency\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Presenter 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Title\_\_\_\_\_ Agency\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_



**Presentation Title:**

**Description of the Presentation** (75 words or less)

*Presentation information sheets must be submitted to the Program Committee by **January 30, 2026**.*

*Please send completed packets to: **devdisday@gmail.com***

*If you have additional questions, please contact:*

*Susan Kueker at (716) 796-8731 or Jennifer Zolnowski (716) 332-4177.*