

2026 Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium
Meeting the Moment: Building Stronger Community-Based Systems

Call for Abstracts

The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) is pleased to announce the [Call for Abstracts](#) is now open for **the 2026 Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium**, taking place on **November 17-18, 2026, at The Hilton Garden Inn Troy in Troy, NY**. This annual symposium brings together local health departments (LHDs) and their community partners to share best practices and innovative strategies in the field of substance use, overdose prevention, and harm reduction. The theme for this event is *“Meeting the Moment: Building Stronger Community-Based Systems.”*

NYSACHO is seeking abstract proposals for **40-minute presentations** that highlight the important work being done by LHDs and partner organizations dedicated to improving drug user health and addressing the overdose crisis through a harm reduction lens. We encourage LHDs to forward the call for abstracts to their community partners as well.

Please note that NYSACHO may request a shorter or longer presentation if your submission is better suited for inclusion in a panel or as a standalone plenary session rather than a breakout session.

While we certainly welcome all submissions, abstracts addressing the topics below are encouraged, but not mandatory:

- **Systems, Stigma, and Structural Change** – Approaches to addressing stigma across substance use, mental health, and behavioral health systems. We are especially interested in work that advances integrated systems of care across mental health, substance use, and harm reduction services; reduces structural barriers to care; and promotes compassionate, person-centered approaches to prevention, treatment, and recovery (including MOUD)
- **Adapting to Changing Drug Trends and Emerging Substances** – Innovations in prevention, overdose response, and harm reduction in response to evolving drug supply trends, polysubstance use, and emerging substances.
- **Beyond Naloxone: Expanding the Harm Reduction Continuum** – Approaches that expand harm reduction beyond overdose reversal to include a broader continuum of services, strategies, and supports across prevention, treatment, and recovery systems.
- **Community Connection and Lived Experience Leadership** – Meaningful engagement of people with lived/living experience, including peer-led models, storytelling approaches, and strategies that build connection, reduce isolation, and strengthen community belonging and recovery pathways.
- **Cross-Sector and Unconventional Partnerships** – Collaboration across public health, mental health, housing, criminal justice, education, and faith-based organizations. Innovative partnerships that strengthen harm reduction, prevention, and recovery systems of care.
- **Prevention Across the Lifespan** – Primary prevention strategies including youth programming, risk and protective factor frameworks, school-based interventions, and prevention infrastructure supported through funding mechanisms such as opioid settlement dollars.

- **Youth, School, and Community-Based Programming** – Implementation and adaptation of evidence-based, evidence-informed, or emerging prevention curricula and programming for youth and young adults in school and community settings.
- **Data to Action and Program Innovation** – Use of data to inform prevention, harm reduction, and response strategies, including translating data into actionable programming, policy, and system improvements.
- **Workforce Development and Capacity Building** – Strategies to strengthen the public health, behavioral health, and harm reduction workforce, including training, competencies, and cross-sector professional development.
- **Sustainable Funding and Opioid Settlement Implementation** – Transparent and effective use of settlement funds and other funding streams to sustain evidence-based prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery initiatives, with attention to equity and investment in disproportionately impacted communities

Abstracts must be submitted by [Friday, May 29, 2026, at 11:59 PM](#). Applicants will be notified no later than July 10th if their abstract has been accepted for presentation. [Click here to submit an abstract!](#)

Please contact Danielle Pellino (dpellino@nysacho.org) if you have any questions or concerns.