

2026 Mental Health & Substance Use Recovery (MHSUR) Conference Call for Proposals

This conference is scheduled for Thursday-Friday, October 21-23, 2026. It is anticipated that this event will take place in-person at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells with the option to attend virtually.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) and the conference planning committee are accepting proposals for 90-minute workshops.

Proposals that focus on emerging trends, are inclusive of diverse perspectives that focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, demonstrate evidence-based practices, promote strength-based approaches, include the voice of lived experience, address underserved populations, enhance skills, support mental health and substance use recovery work, and energize participants are encouraged.

Proposal Deadline is March 11, 2026.

UW-Stevens Point Continuing Education and Outreach staff and the conference planning committee review all proposals. Selection criteria include the following:

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Demand/interest for the topic.
- Presenter(s) experience and qualifications.
- Diverse perspectives that focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Learning objectives.
- History of the topic at the conference, including frequency of similar offerings.
- Previous conference evaluation feedback, if applicable.
- Preference may be given to proposals on topics that have not been presented at recent conferences.

If you have questions, please email the UWSP Conference Planning Team at uwpce-conf@uwsp.edu.

Overview of Questions

- 1) Contact and general information for presenter or primary contact person.
- 2) Proposed Session Information
 - a) Title of Proposed Session
 - b) Description of proposed session. (One that could be publicized if your session is selected.) **650 Characters Maximum.**
 - c) Level of depth of proposed workshop
 - i) Introductory - Presenter presumes audience has little or no familiarity with topic.
 - ii) Intermediate - Presenter presumes audience has some familiarity or experience with topic.
 - iii) Advanced - Presenter presumes audience has substantial knowledge; explores complex concepts, advanced techniques, or emerging trends.
 - d) Description of session style and intended audience
 - e) List 3 Learning Objectives for this Session in the format: “participants will be able to...”
 - f) What category best fits your proposed session?
 - i) Substance Use Disorders
 - ii) Mental Health
 - iii) Peer-based or lived experience
 - iv) Co-occurring
 - v) Evidence-based practices
 - vi) Population Specific (Veterans, gender, culture, etc.)
 - vii) Overall wellness and other topics
 - g) How does your session take into consideration diversity, equity, and inclusion?
 - h) Briefly tell us about yourself (and other presenters, if applicable). How do your personal and professional experiences and formal education connect to this proposal and the conference? Please list any professional credentials.
 - i) Have you presented at the Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery Conference previously?
 - j) To better accommodate the needs of mental health and substance use recovery professionals, we will be offering some of the breakouts in a hybrid format. Do you consent to being chosen as a recorded/livestreamed session?

Co-Presenter(s) Information

Do you have Co-Presenter(s)?

Please list your Co-Presenter's Information in the format of (Name, Email Address)

Compensation for presenters includes one night lodging and waived conference registration fee (includes breakfast and lunch). Travel expenses and honorariums are occasionally reimbursed. Would you be seeking consideration for additional reimbursement/payment? If so, please give details below.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

What option best describes your gender? Man, Woman, Non-Binary, Transgender, Intersex, Other

How would you describe yourself in terms of race or ethnicity?

Which of these apply to you? Check all that apply. (LGBTQIA+, Disabled or Having a Disability, low income, military veteran, etc.)