



2025 APA OHIO PLANNING CONFERENCE

# CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS

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## THE NEW FRONTIER

The ability to anticipate future trends allows us to meet tomorrow's needs, today. As planners we must learn, prepare, and act to foster sustainable and socially just cities. Through innovative zoning, transformative technology, and futuristic mobility we are preparing for the new frontier.

Join us September 24-26, 2025 in Toledo, Ohio at the APA Ohio Statewide Planning Conference.

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

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All sessions submitted must be eligible for AICP Certification Maintenance credit. Session durations will vary throughout the conference schedule. Therefore, session proposals can be submitted in various increments depending on the maturity of the topic and range of speakers.

Final conference tracks will be identified as the schedule develops. Select what topic(s) you feel your proposal best addresses.

## SESSION FORMATS

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### Traditional Sessions (60 min)

A standard session for the APA Ohio Statewide Planning Conference. This traditional panel presentation focuses on one topic and features a variety of speakers with common experience, but varying perspectives. These sessions may include a moderator and are given in presentation form with questions from the audience at the end.

### Deep Dive Sessions (60 min)

Intended for more experienced attendees, deep dives are interactive and thought-provoking sessions that allow for a more focused, in-depth exploration of a planning topic than is possible in regular sessions. Rooms are set up in rounds of 8 and limited to 25 participants for maximum engagement and participation.

### Technical Workshops (90-120 min)

Technical workshops are hands-on, interactive sessions focused on learning practical skills and understanding specific technical concepts and/or technologies. Rooms are set up in rounds of 8 and limited to 25 participants for maximum engagement and participation.

### Mobile Workshops (90–120 min)

Mobile workshops will travel outside the conference venue to give attendees a first-hand look at communities and projects. Organizers of these workshops should include logistics in their submission such as transportation, site(s), speakers, as well as educational value. Keep in mind travel times and transportation alternatives when submitting ideas.

### Other

APA Ohio is always open to new and exciting ways of providing education to planners in Ohio. Put on your thinking cap and imagine a session attendees will talk about till 2026! Put your best, creative foot forward and tell us how you would like to present your topic.

## SESSION GOALS

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### Provide educational, fun, and interactive sessions

Proposals will be reviewed based on their ability to engage the audience. We encourage attendee participation, interactive elements or activities that are a different format than a traditional lecture followed by Q&A.

### Know your audience

There is a wide array of planners, community board members, allied professionals and others that attend the conference. Highlight if the session is geared toward a professional audience or citizen planners. Also, indicate the content level, whether the material is introductory, or intended to advance the skills of experienced planners.

### Represent all of Ohio's cities and regions

Sessions will be selected to ensure a conference program that is representative of a diversity of geographies to include urban, suburban, and rural locations from all areas of the state.

### Be real!

It is great to show off successes and what is worked well. However, there are many lessons that can be learned from what has not been a success. Let us not be shy and share these situational experiences. Also, ensure sessions have applicable take-aways for the audience.

### Let's talk about the future

Our theme THE NEW FRONTIER showcases the necessity to navigate the ever-evolving technologies available in our day-to-day work as planners to better the future of our communities.

### Ensure diversity of speaker representation

Proposals should demonstrate the diversity of the planning profession wherever possible through the speakers identified. This may include cultural, racial and gender diversity, as well as diversity of speaker experiences. We intend to have strong AICP representation, though a broad array of viewpoints from other professionals and community members is encouraged.

## SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

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- Proposals will be accepted exclusively through the online submission form at [ohioplanning.org/conference](https://ohioplanning.org/conference).
- Session proposals must be received by **5 pm on Wednesday, April 30, 2025**.
- Late and/or incomplete proposals will not be considered. *Your proposal MUST include information on all speakers (including bios).*
- Ahead of submitting a proposal, please review the proposal questions [HERE](#).
- All speakers must register for at least the day they are presenting. As a courtesy, early bird registration rates will remain available to all speakers regardless of registration date.

## QUESTIONS

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Please direct questions to APA Ohio Executive Director Christine Davis, AICP at [info@ohioplanning.org](mailto:info@ohioplanning.org).