AUCD 2026 Annual Conference | Impact through Innovation and Partnership
November 8 - 11 • Washington, DC

2026 CONFERENCE GUIDE FOR UCEDD DIRECTORS

November 8–11, 2026 | The Westin Washington, DC Downtown

Make the most of your AUCD 2026 Conference experience with this quick guide to meetings, networking opportunities, and trainee-focused events that UCEDD Directors and/or staff are encouraged to attend. Check the Guidebook app for locations and the latest event details. Have questions? Email events@aucd.org.

AT-A-GLANCE: Sessions of Interest for UCEDD Directors, Faculty, and Trainees

**Sessions with an asterisk are technical assistance events.*

DAY	TIME	EVENT
Sun., Nov. 8	9:00—11:30 AM	**UCEDD Directors' Meeting***
Sun., Nov. 8	12:00–3:00 PM	**Data Coordinators' Annual Meeting*** *UCEDD Directors are encouraged to attend!*
Sun., Nov. 8	12:00–2:00 PM	**ELC Networking Session***
Sun., Nov. 8	12:30–3:00 PM	**LEND Directors' Meeting***
Sun., Nov. 8	4:15–5:30 PM	**Public Policy Workshop**
Mon., Nov. 9	7:45–8:45 AM	**Data Coordinator Office Hours***
Mon., Nov. 9	8:00–8:45 AM; 12:00–12:45 PM	**AUCD Special Interest Group Meetings**
Mon., Nov. 9	9:00—10:30 AM	**AUCD 2026 Opening Plenary**
Mon., Nov. 9	10:45 AM; 2:15 PM; 4:00 PM	**Concurrent & Poster Sessions**
Mon., Nov. 9	1:00–2:00 PM	**AUCD Council Meetings**
Tue., Nov. 10	8:00–8:45 AM	**AUCD Special Interest Group Meetings**
Tue., Nov. 10	9:00—10:30 AM	**AUCD 2026 Plenary Session**
Tue., Nov 10	10:45 AM & 4:00 PM	**Concurrent & Poster Sessions**
Tue., Nov. 10	12:00—4:00 PM	**Hill Visits**
Tue., Nov. 10	4:00—5:15 PM	**AUCD Network Spotlights**
Tue., Nov. 10	6:00—7:00 PM	**AUCD Awards**
Wed., Nov. 11	8:30–9:30 AM	**AUCD Business Meeting**
Wed., Nov. 11	8:30–9:30 AM	**Connect and Play: An ELC Networking Event**
Wed., Nov. 11	9:45–11:15 AM	**AUCD 2026 Closing Plenary**

A Note About "Invite Only" Sessions:
Sessions designated as "Invite Only" are limited to specific audiences. Please refer to the conference agenda (https://www.aucd.org/conference/agenda) to identify sessions that require an invitation. Please message events@aucd.org with any questions.

Reminders for Trainees

Help trainees get the most out of the conference by sharing the reminders below before they arrive. Please encourage your trainees to connect with peers from other Programs!

Trainees are encouraged to:

- Attend the Sunday Emerging Leaders Community (ELC) Networking Session from 12:00–2:00 PM in River Birch A.
- Participate in the Wednesday Connect and Play Networking Event from 8:30 -9:30 AM in Potomac 3.
- Download and use the "Guidebook" conference app to find sessions, speakers, networking events, maps, and schedule changes (https://www.guidebook.com/guides).
- Attend AUCD Council and Special Interest Group meetings that align with their interests and professional goals.



Conference Tips

Plan Your Team's Schedule in Advance Review the conference schedule before arriving and decide which meetings, sessions, and networking opportunities each member of your LEND team will attend. Divide coverage when events overlap so your program can participate in as many relevant activities as possible.

Plan Ahead for Sunday
Several important activities occur on Sunday that may overlap, including the Data Coordinators Annual Meeting, Emerging Leaders Community Networking Session, and LEND Directors Meeting. Coordinate with faculty, staff, data coordinators, and trainees before the conference to determine who will represent your program at each event.

Notable Sessions for UCEDD Directors, Faculty, and Trainees:

**Please refer to the Guidebook app to confirm location.*

Sunday, November 8 | Highlighted Events

UCEDD Directors' Annual Meeting
WHEN: 9:00 – 11:30 AM
WHERE: Potomac 1 & 2
FOR: UCEDD Directors & ACL Leadership.

Data Coordinators' Annual Meeting
WHEN: 12:00–3:00 PM
WHERE: River Birch B
FOR: LEND, UCEDD, and DBP Data Coordinators or others responsible for federal data reporting.

Emerging Leaders Community Networking Session
WHEN: 12:00–2:00 PM
WHERE: River Birch A
FOR: Trainees, former trainees, early-career professionals, and other emerging leaders.

LEND Directors' Meeting
WHEN: 12:30–3:00 PM
WHERE: Potomac 1 & 2
FOR: LEND Directors and LEND Leadership.

Public Policy Workshop
WHEN: 4:15–5:30 PM
WHERE: Potomac Ballroom
FOR: All Conference Attendees

Monday, November 9 | Highlighted Events

Data Coordinator Office Hours
WHEN: 7:45–8:45 AM
WHERE: Meeting Room 7
FOR: Data Coordinators and interested program leadership

Special Interest Group Meetings | Monday
WHEN: 8:00–8:45 AM and 12:00–12:45 PM
WHERE: Meeting Level rooms; check the Guidebook app
FOR: All conference attendees. Monday SIGs include Postsecondary Education, Aging, Mental Health Aspects of IDD, Employment, and Home & Community-Based Services.

Opening Plenary: Listening, Partnering, and the Making of a Movement: Inside the Jane Goodall Oral History Project
WHEN: 9:00–10:30 AM
WHERE: Potomac Ballroom
FOR: All Conference Attendees

AUCD Council Meetings
WHEN: 1:00–2:00 PM
WHERE: CORE: Potomac 3 | COLA: Potomac 1/2 | CEDC: River Birch B | NTDC: River Birch A
FOR: All conference attendees. Choose the council that best aligns with your role or interests: Council on Research and Evaluation (CORE), Council on Leadership in Advocacy (COLA), Community Education and Dissemination Council (CEDC), or National Training Directors Council (NTDC).

Tuesday, November 10 | Highlighted Events

Special Interest Group Meetings | Tuesday

WHEN: 8:00–8:45 AM
WHERE: Meeting Level rooms; check the Guidebook app
FOR: All conference attendees. Tuesday SIGs include Family Support, FASD, Autism/Health & Disability, and Early Childhood.

Leading Change Plenary: Beyond the Data: How Stories of Disability Change Hearts, Minds, and Policy

WHEN: 9:00–10:30 AM
WHERE: Potomac Ballroom
FOR: All Conference Attendees

AUCD Hill Visits

WHEN: 12:00–4:00 PM
WHERE: Capitol Hill
FOR: All Conference attendees are strongly encouraged to visit their Members of Congress while in Washington, DC. Meetings are not arranged by AUCD.

AUCD Network Spotlights

WHEN: 4:00–5:15 PM
WHERE: Meeting Level Rooms – *see the Guidebook App for more information*
FOR: All Conference Attendees

AUCD Awards

WHEN: 6:00–7:00 PM
WHERE: Potomac Ballroom
FOR: All Conference Attendees; heavy hors d'oeuvres & cash bar available.

Wednesday, November 11 | Highlighted Events

AUCD Business Meeting

WHEN: 8:30–9:30 AM
WHERE: Potomac 1/2
FOR: UCEDD, LEND & IDDRC Directors and members interested in organizational updates, priorities, and Network business.

Connect and Play: An ELC Networking Event

WHEN: 8:30–9:30 AM
WHERE: Potomac 3
FOR: Trainees, former trainees, early-career professionals, and other attendees who want a fun, interactive opportunity to build connections across the AUCD Network.

Closing Plenary: Real-World Insights on Protecting Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), Engaging Families, and Cultivating Next-Generation Leadership

WHEN: 9:45–11:15 AM
WHERE: Potomac 1/2
FOR: All Conference Attendees

Questions? Contact events@aucd.org.

UCEDD Network
University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities