

2026 Symposium Schedule

Wednesday 9/23 Registration 11am-4:30pm

***Lunch will be served from 11:30am-1pm**

Wednesday 9/23 at 1:00pm-2:00pm

Congress: Arc of Monroe: Universal Inclusive Experiences

Peerless: Arc Lexington: Engaged and Empowered-A Wellness Practice

Big Red: CPU: Stronger Together

State Seal: YAI: Quality Improvement Plans and Person-Centered Practices: Making dreams a reality, one person at a time.

Skidmore: Mountain Lake Services: Designing Supportive Spaces: Day Hab Environments for Aging and Regression

Coffee Break

Wednesday 9/23 at 2:15pm-3:15pm

Congress: LDI Connect: AI Powered DSP Strategy: The Business Case for AI in Direct Support Services

Peerless: Community Mainstream Associates- C.O.R.E.: CMA's Program Without Walls: An Innovative Model

Big Red: The Arc of Rensselaer County Brunswick Center Services: Membership Matters: From Participation to Purpose

State Seal: SUS: Skill It to Win It

Skidmore: JM Murray Associates: Golden Years-A New Era for Day Hab

Coffee Break and Refreshments

Wednesday 9/23 at 3:30pm-4:30pm

Congress: YAI: Building A Full Life: How Community Hab, Self Direction, and Day Services can Align to Support What Matters Most

Peerless: SUS: Cultivating Leadership from Within: Participatory Approaches to Engaging People with I/DD

Big Red: People Inc./Supporting People with Autism

State Seal: Arc Allegany-Steuben: Community Inclusion: What it is and How to Track

Skidmore: ACHIEVE: ACHIEVE's Innovative Day Services

Wednesday 9/23

4:30pm Raffle in Vendor Area

5:00pm Join us at the bar for Happy Hour

Thursday 9/24 Breakfast Buffet at Breakfast Alley, begins at 7am

Thursday 9/24 at 9:00am-11:45am

Congress

**Welcome & Opening Remarks
DSP, Team & Leadership Awards
Innovation Grants Awards
Keynote Speaker: Robert Budd
Lunch 12:00pm-1:00pm**

Thursday 9/24 at 1:30pm-2:30pm

**Congress: FREE: Developing People-Strengthening Retention
Peerless: The Spirit of Huntington: A Collaborative Approach to Strengthening Local
Nonprofits
Big Red: YAI: You Can't Pour From an Empty Cup
State Seal: CFDSNY: Voices That Matter: Building an Advocacy Program
Skidmore: Life's WORC: Color Wars**

Thursday 9/24 at 2:45pm-3:45pm

**Congress: FREE: Growing a Culture: Agriculture and Vocational Services
Peerless: Mountain Lake Services: Improving Retention Through the Buddy Program:
Celebrating Five Years
Big Red: Heartshare: Prioritizing What Really Matters
State Seal: Eleversity & OPWDD: OPWDD Partnerships and Initiatives**

Thursday 9/24 5pm Raffle, Food and Fun in the Skidmore Room

Friday 9/25 Breakfast Buffet at Breakfast Alley, begins at 7am

Friday 9/25 at 9am-10:00am

**Congress: *OPWDD Updates*
Friday 9/25 at 10:00am-11:00am**

Congress: AHRCNY: Our Broadway!