



IPHA 85th Annual Public Health Workforce Conference

Call for Proposals: Poster Presentations

The Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) invites public health professionals, students, and other interested individuals to submit proposals to present posters or Creative Discovery Projects for presentation at the 85th IPHA Annual Public Health Workforce Conference held in Springfield, IL on September 1 -September 3, 2026.

This year's theme is **Together We Thrive**.

Selected presenters will be invited to showcase their work during sessions scheduled for September 2 and September 3. We will have a certain number of slots for posters that represent CHW work specifically. CHWs, please do not hesitate to submit your poster proposals!

The audience will have the option of selecting the top three (3) presentations in both categories -- poster presentations and creative discovery projects. The top three (3) poster presentations will be recognized and receive an award during the last day of the conference!

Presenters may choose to submit a proposal to present a traditional poster or to present their artwork in a creative, non-traditional way (creative discovery project).

All proposals should align with this year's theme of prioritizing public health in Illinois. The following topic areas are provided for consideration:

1. **Social and Structural Determinants of Health and/or Cross-Sector Partnership** – examples include innovative models or learnings to address the health equity of communities; voting and civic engagement strategies; linking community members to health care and social service; addressing food access and insecurity; mobilizing communities to create positive change through targeted outreach

2. **Policy and Research** – examples include sharing the results of program evaluation led by CHWs or students; strategies for policy changes at the local and community level; innovative funding strategies; communication with policy and decision makers; research into various public health topics, innovations in population health delivery
3. **Addressing Workforce Shortages and Building Capacity among the Public Health Workforce** – examples include capacity building strategies; best practices for hiring and retention of workers; career pathways at various levels of education and training; effective supervision approaches; sustainable financing models for CHW services; expanding the scope of practice to provide a wider range of services
4. **Chronic Disease, Infectious Disease, and the Health of Special Populations** – examples may include support and services for children’s health; outreach to persons with disabilities or mental health or wellness challenges; addressing infectious disease outbreaks; health literacy; support for justice involved individuals and/or the re-entry population; cultural mediation and communication to support chronic disease management; evaluations to assess the effectiveness of community interventions
5. **Innovations to Build Trust in Public Health and Science** – examples may include approaches to increasing access to health care in rural and underserved communities; use of technology for community engagement; addressing misinformation; using a client centered approach to address mistrust; effective messaging to address anti-vaccination sentiment
6. **Emerging Issues in Public Health** – may include issues associated with services to migrant populations; assault on diversity, equity, and inclusion; funding disruptions due to changes in federal priorities; increasing health disparities; removal of health data; innovative ways to support the public health mission despite roadblocks at the federal, state and community-level; gaps in mental and behavioral health care

Poster Presentations and Creative Discovery Project Guidelines

A *Poster* is a graphic presentation of your research. Posters can also be used to tell and/or share a story about your topic or present the outcomes of your research.

Creative Discovery Projects allow the presenter to communicate scientific evidence or public health information to a public audience in a non-traditional manner by presenting your research, design, field study or learning through creative work. This

could be through artwork or graphic design, an infographic, visual storytelling, sharing forms developed for use in the community, or a photo series. Creativity is encouraged!

Presenters will hold discussions with attendees who are circulating among the poster boards. If selected to present your poster, there are several guidelines in place to accommodate our venue and ensure a welcoming environment for all:

- Selected poster and creative discovery presenters must register for the conference.
- During the scheduled session times, you will remain by your project and share your topic with other attendees.
- Display materials not removed at the end of the day will be discarded. Presenters are responsible for removing projects and taking or shipping them home.
- No audiovisual equipment is permitted for presentations.
- Posters and creative discovery projects should be no larger than 36" x 48" in size. Posters can either be trifold, mounted, or have sufficient backing (i.e., foam core) to ensure they will sit on an easel. Easels will be provided. **We only have a limited supply of mounting boards for clipping your posters to ensure it sits on the easel. Please bring your own mounting if you have it.**

Please keep in mind that your project should be well-labeled and legible from a distance of 10 to 15 feet away. Make sure it is a balance of easy-to-read text sections and images (tables, graphs, photos, pictures, illustrations, original artwork, forms, etc.). Avoid a "wall of text" with long paragraph sections in a tiny font. The lettering should be bold. You can view the [Better Research Poster](#) for recommendations on designing an easy-to-digest research poster. For more general guidelines for creating effective posters, you can view [How to Make a Poster](#).

Posters that include profanity, vulgarity, offensive language and/or images, inappropriate and/or derogatory information directed toward a specific member, or group of members, will not be tolerated and will be removed.

**Submit your proposal here. <https://form.jotform.com/260842955827166>
Proposals must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM CDT on May 15, 2026.**