

Icebreaker: NAME that TUNE!

~Seattle Style~



NEUAC 2026

Annual Conference

May 18-21 | Seattle, WA

The Hyatt Regency Seattle

Welcome/Introductions: What is your favorite thing about Seattle?





NEUAC 2026 Conference Chairpersons

Kim Campbell Hailey | Vistra

Latoya Butler | CEDA

Shaylee Stokes | WA State CAP

Glenis Scott | Total Community Action Agency

Take Action. End Energy Poverty.



2026 NEUAC Conference Committee

Stephenie Arnold, CACLMT

Alexandra Balbuena Alleyne, Washington Gas

Andrew Binegar, Bridges CAP

David Carroll, APPRISE

Leslie Diaz-Villavicencio, PACE

Jesse Hernandez, CPS Energy

Maria Hopps, Colorado DHS

Patricia Johnson, CSRA EOA

Teresa Kullen, NEADA Liaison

Tommi Lindsey, Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority

Carol Mensah, Pierce County Human Services

Tasha Moore, Tacoma Public Utilities

Briana Parker, Elevate

Debbie Paton, Opportunity Council

Amanda Shelton, Texas Association of Community
Action Agencies

Misty Velasquez, Community Action of Skagit County

Word Cloud

What are some words that you think of to describe our mutual mission to end energy poverty?



Word Cloud

What do you think of
when I say Seattle or
Pacific Northwest?



2026 Conference Venue

May 18-21 | Seattle, WA

The Hyatt Regency Seattle

Welcome/Introductions: What is your favorite thing about Seattle?





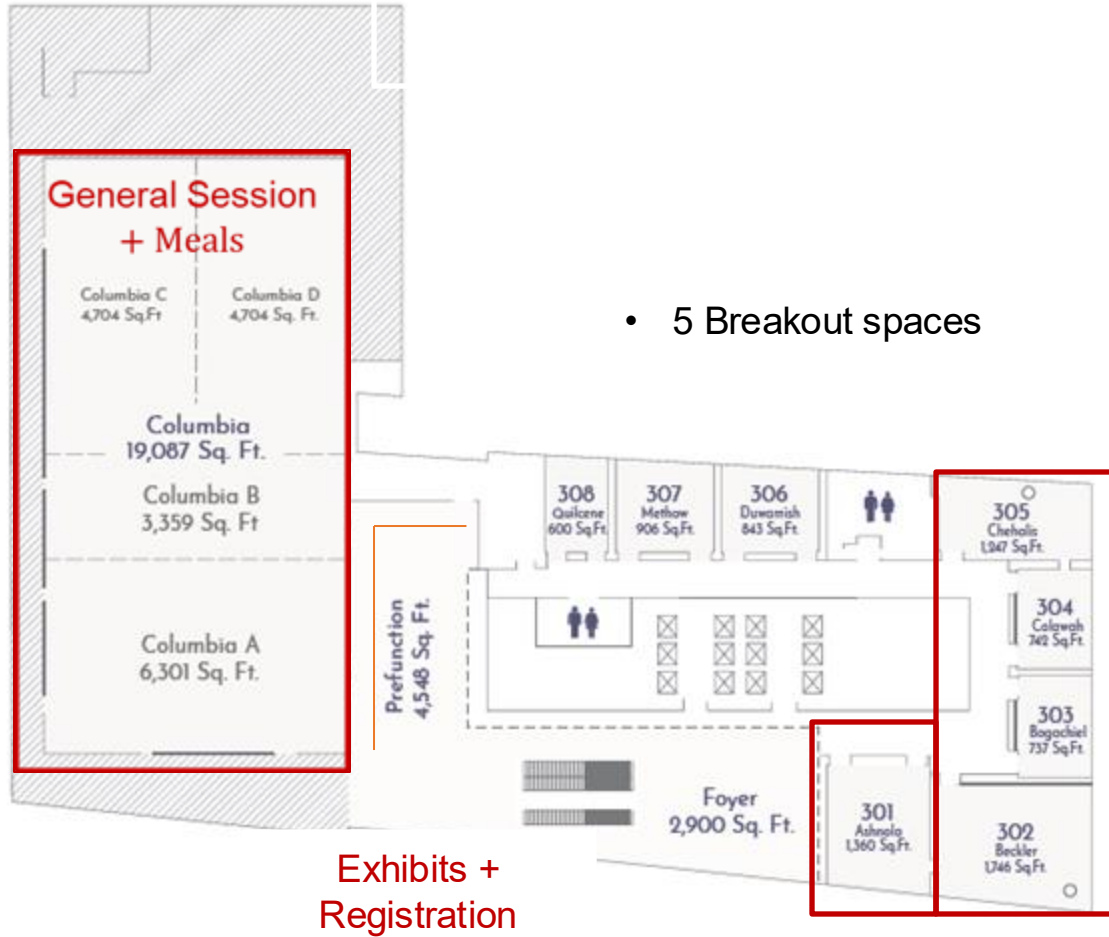
2026 Conference Venue

HYATT REGENCY SEATTLE

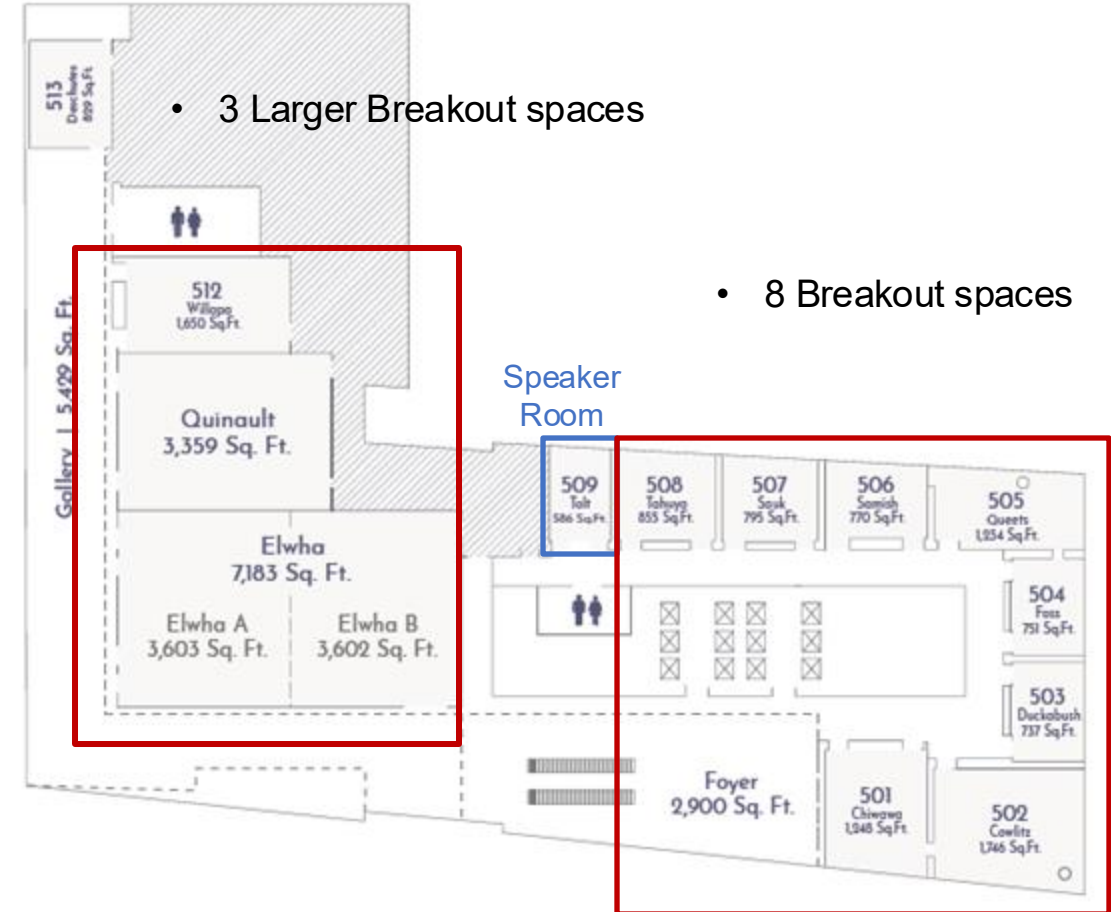
- Total Sleeping Rooms **1,260**
- Lots of natural light
- 17 unique sized Breakout spaces
- 2 Floors – 3rd and 5th
- Ample foyer space for exhibitors

FLOOR PLAN
Level 3

17 Total Breakout spaces

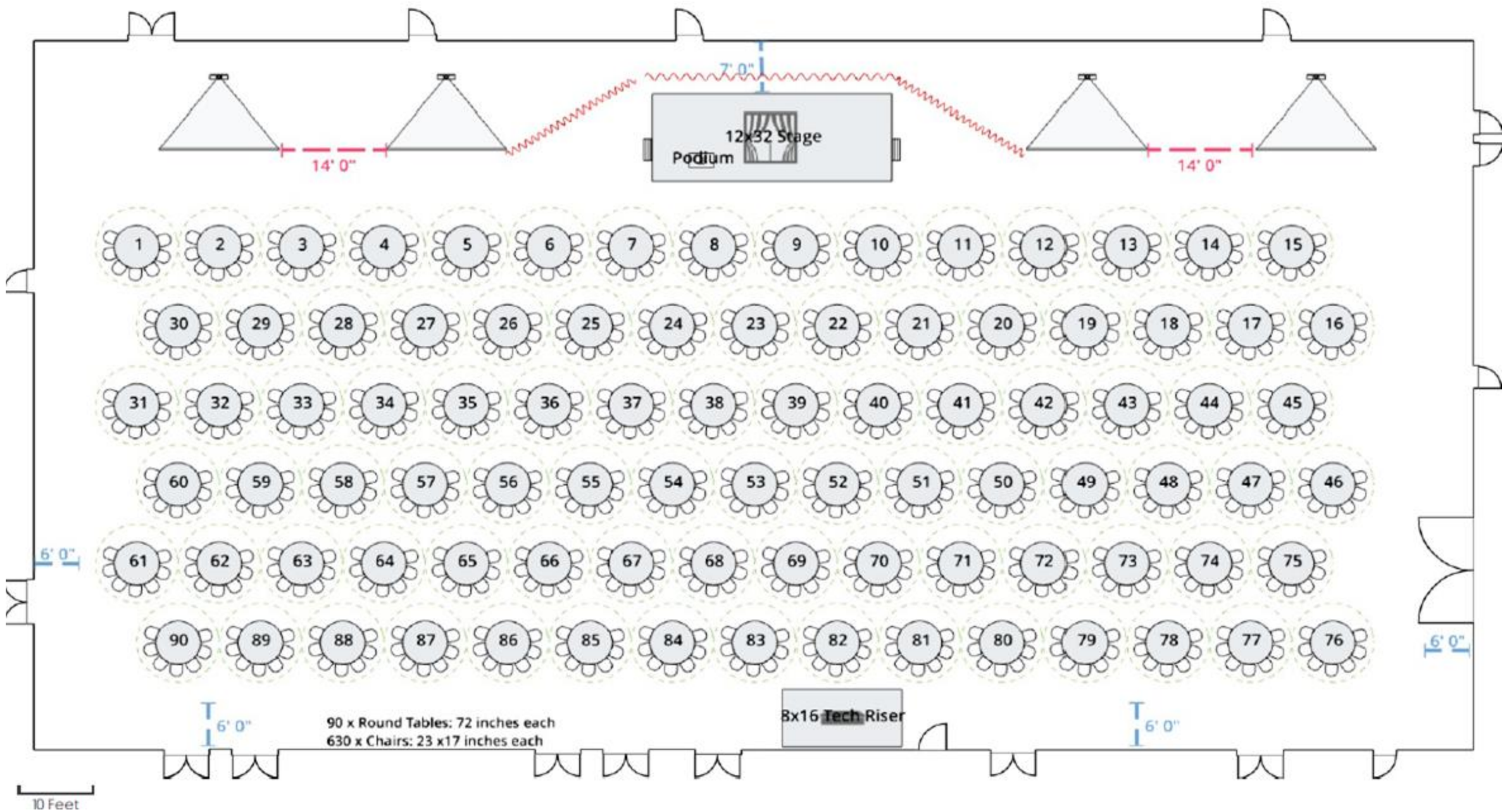


FLOOR PLAN
Level 5



Plenary Sessions + Meals

630pp in crescent rounds of 7 per table





A place of surprising contrasts.

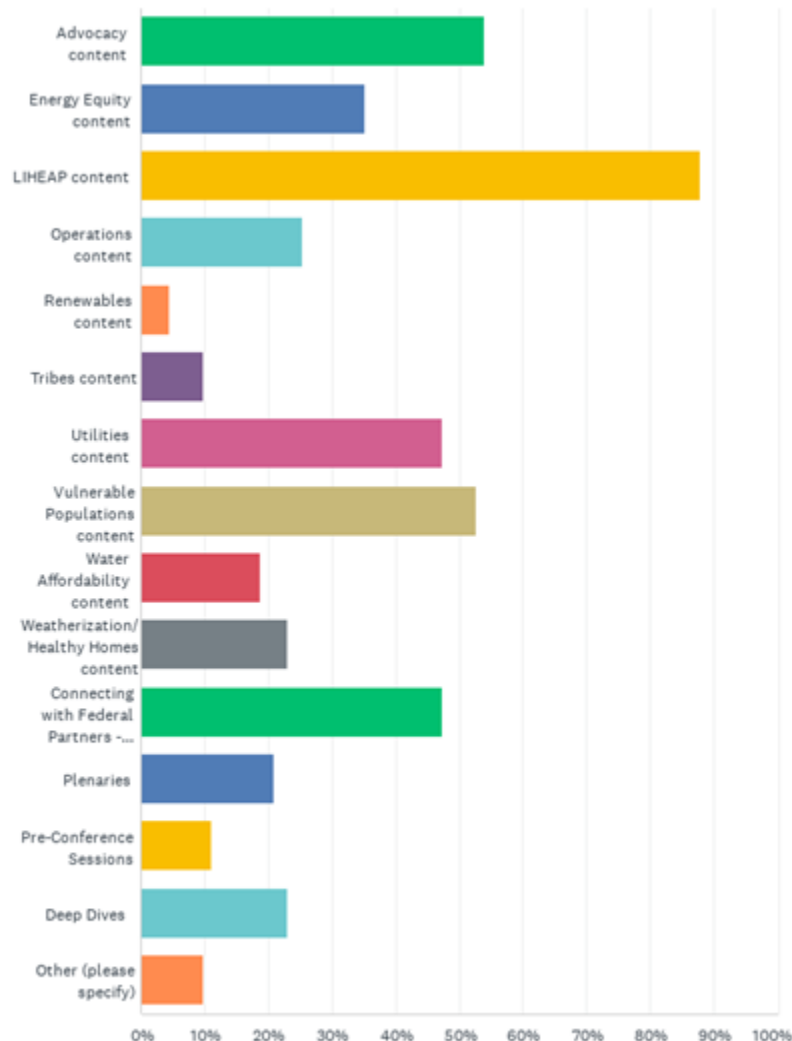
Seattle is a place of surprising contrasts. An urban city surrounded by natural beauty, it is sophisticated yet unpretentious.

- [Convention Perks Pass](#). A free, mobile-friendly passport full of discounts to local attractions, restaurants, and retailers
- Complimentary print materials including [downtown maps](#) and other [useful brochures](#)
 - Seattle Center Monorail
 - Seattle Center
 - Space Needle
 - Chihuly Garden and Glass
 - Museum of Pop Culture
 - Pacific Science Center
 - Pike Place Market



Evaluation Summary 2025

What were your main reasons for attending?

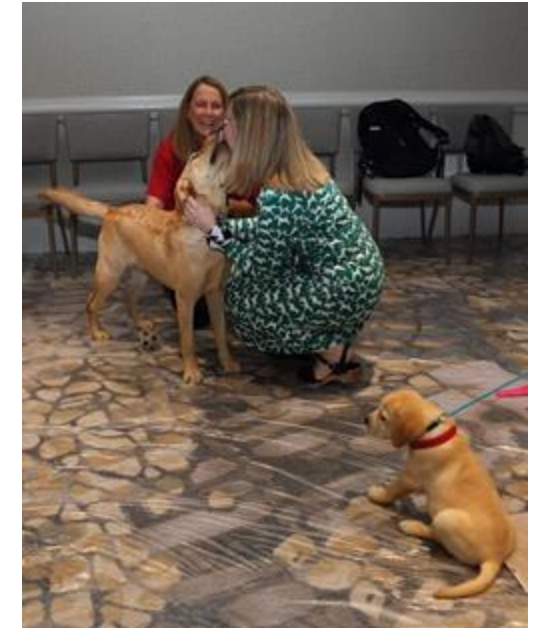


- LIHEAP content
- Vulnerable Populations
- Federal Partners connections
- Utilities content
- Networking with other nonprofits, CAAs, and agencies administering LIHEAP

Evaluation Summary 2025

What was the **most** valuable aspect of this conference?

- ❖ “I loved the sessions about LIHEAP and getting to meet the LIHEAP team that was (let go). It was very eye opening and made it more real.”
- ❖ “The deep focus this season on advocacy in this specific political moment was very useful and provided a united framework for everyone to start conversations from.”
- ❖ “Poverty as Public Policy was excellent. I'd love to take Dr. Lilley's course.”
- ❖ “I want to commend the land acknowledgement at the beginning of the conference. I am not indigenous myself so I can't fully speak to its effectiveness, but it was one of the most respectful acknowledgements I have seen.”
- ❖ “Open and direct contact with the utility attendees. As an exhibitor this was better than most other conferences and the set up was conducive to quality conversations with the right people.”
- ❖ “The conference was a wonderful blend of learning, discussion, and camaraderie/friendship. I've not met a warmer, more inclusive, more educated, more experienced group of professionals.”



“I loved the puppies! It was just so needed, for individuals such as myself, we definitely need to see the beautiful things in life as often as possible to keep our hearts full and minds open and ready to assist.”

Evaluation Summary 2025

What was the **least** valuable aspect of this conference?

- ❖ “There was less choice of **water** related sessions. I found this disappointing.”
- ❖ “For me, it is anything to do with **water**, as we do not have programs for that.”
- ❖ “**Too many concurrent sessions** - I'd prefer to see fewer sessions at the same time.”
- ❖ “Some of the sessions seemed like a presentation on someone's thesis versus an actual informative/educational session.”
- ❖ “Not enough participation from state advocates working on energy affordability issues at the state legislature and at PUCs.”
- ❖ “I don't necessarily think that it was least valuable, but I think the **deep dives should have been held on day 1**. I felt it provided a great learning environment and allowed us to collaborate and learn from others around the US. It was a really big energy driver that we could have all used on day 1.”
- ❖ “I felt like some of the **utility specific conversations** were not as accessible for employees of community action agencies/nonprofits, but I understand that some conversations need to be new and exciting for those that already know the basics.”



NEUAC Staff Favorite:
“No mints in the sessions.”

Evaluation Summary 2025

What session should be **repeated**?

- ❖ **Poverty as Public Policy: The Stories We Tell about the Choices We Make** – Dr. Glenn Lilley
 - ❖ **Energy Burden Action Study: Data Sharing between State Agencies** - Wisconsin presenters
 - ❖ **Non-Traditional Approaches to Securing Energy Funding** – Scott Allan Davis, SEEL
 - ❖ **Community Comfort: How Weatherization Kits Make a Difference** - Kansas Gas Service
 - ❖ **Energy Bingo! Teaching Energy Efficiency through Collaboration and Games** - CEFS
 - ❖ **On the Frontlines: Strategic Collaboration for Shutoff Protections and Energy Affordability** – Berneta Hayes
 - ❖ **Energy Assistance & Community Action: Navigating Challenges and Opportunities** – Ryan Gelman
 - ❖ **Are You the Leader You Want to Be?** - Sabrina Cowden
-
- ❖ “Any sessions where we interact with each other, not just sitting in a room listening to someone talk the entire time”
 - ❖ “More LIHEAP and tribal topics”
 - ❖ “Whova App exhibitor table”
 - ❖ “I would like more speakers addressing poverty and energy burden”
 - ❖ “Information about the Federal Budget and how everything is broken down”

Evaluation Summary 2025

Any topics that weren't addressed?

- ❖ **Energy + Water** working together
- ❖ **Regional Breakout Sessions**
- ❖ Include **tribal utility companies** so they can connect with LIHEAP
- ❖ “I would love to see a panel with a deeper conversation about what **disconnections** are looking like between regions/utilities. As part of a community action agency, disconnections deeply impact our clients and neighbors, and having a better, broader understanding of how other areas are dealing with disconnections and coming up with plans to help ameliorate the harms of disconnection through programmatic coordination with our local utilities, advocating to our local government, and empowering communities to speak on their experiences.”
- ❖ “We didn't get into the affordability issues that states are experiencing because of energy resource adequacy. Meaning, states have to build more power generation to keep lights on. Who is paying for it? **How do we make sure the new buildout isn't unfairly burdening our ratepayers?** More water related issues. LIHWAP is fine but so many other things - lead remediation, PFAs, etc. that impact affordability. Water is the fastest growing industry as it relates to bills. These bills are going up higher and faster.”
- ❖ “I would love to see more than just Washington and Pennsylvania represented as far as what they do for LIHEAP.”

Evaluation Summary 2025

Any topics that weren't addressed?

- ❖ “I'd like to see more content around **how to engage customers to enroll in utility programs**. Many of us aren't able to automatically enroll, so we're struggling to get customers to go through the application process.”
- ❖ “I would like to see resources and/or **creative solutions for when funding has been exhausted**.”
- ❖ “There is a lot of entry level LIHEAP sessions. Maybe **something higher level** for folks who have been doing this for awhile.”
- ❖ “How does energy assistance fit in with **other community resources** (housing, food insecurity, etc.)”
- ❖ “I would love a session on **repairing relationships** to advance collaborative goals. There are often sessions on how to start or maintain relationships but what happens when you come into a role that has sour relationships?”
- ❖ “I would like a session for **CAP staff from different states** to collaborate and discuss how they run their program.”

Content Pre-Selected for 2026

Breakout Content

HHS Dialogue with the Feds

DOE Dialogue with the Feds

LIHEAP 101

LIHEAP 102

Understanding the LIHEAP Formula

We still need...

30 - 40 Breakout Sessions

3 - 4 Deep Dive Sessions

2 - 4 Preconference Sessions

2 - 3 Plenary Sessions

5 - 6 Huddles

Questions

How do you feel about repeated content? Year over year? Day to day?

Offsite lunch?

Seattle Timeline

September 30, 2025	Planning Meeting – Kicks off the planning for the 2026 conference in Seattle
Fall 2025	Request for Presentations – A call for local and national presenters is released. This is the first time many people are introduced to the theme and logo, which are developed based on conversations at the planning meeting.
December 31, 2025	Presentations Review Process Concludes – All presentations should be reviewed no later than this date to allow NEUAC and MSI staff time to invite presenters, accept declinations, adjust the schedule, and release presentations not chosen for the conference. Deadline – Key decisions on vendors pricing, host state/region sponsorships, registration pricing should be complete
January 31, 2026	Deadline – Notify presenters from the RFP of status via email, identify and outreach to keynote or plenary speakers
February 2026	Draft Agenda Online – Draft agenda for the 2026 Conference is published, final decisions on plenary speakers, deep dive content, pre-conference sessions, and reception finalized
March 2026	Registration Opens – Registration officially opens for the 2026 Conference, scholarship application also opens

2026 Conference Schedule of Events

NEUAC Board Meeting: Monday, 5/18 8 am – 12 pm

Preconference Sessions: Monday, 5/18 1 pm - 4 pm

Conference: Tuesday, 5/19 - Thursday, 5/21



WE RISE TOGETHER

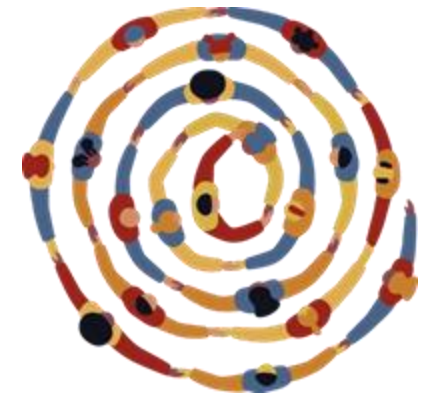


Rising
with
Resiliency



Winds of Change
Uplifting Community
neuac

Utility Affordability Roundup



All Hands on Deck!

Tabletop Brainstorms



Can't Miss Topics

LIHEAP

Advocacy

Weatherization/Energy Efficiency

Fuel Funds

Vulnerable Populations

Energy Education

Staff Support

Outreach

Program Management

Technology/Program Implementation



Reception

Plenary Speakers

Educational & Local Activities