



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**To:** Interested Speakers & Presenters  
**From:** Virginia White, MACo Member Services & Events Director  
**Subject:** Submitting topics to be considered for MACo's 2017 Winter Conference

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The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) is beginning to gather topics for our 2017 Winter Conference, to be held December 6-8 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort in Cambridge, Maryland.

The theme of this year's conference is "**The Power of Partnership**" and will focus on intergovernmental cooperation and ways that counties can partner with entities in the public and private sector to achieve the best results for Maryland's residents. Sessions will highlight collaboration across county lines and service areas to address priorities like the opioid epidemic, Next Gen 9-1-1, and the environment, along with other important topics like mutual aid agreements and cooperative purchasing.

### LIST OF POTENTIAL TOPICS:

(all proposals will be considered, but MACo is interested in covering the following topics)

- Cross-county collaboration to deliver services, respond to crises, or inform residents
- Leveraging private and non-profit resources to improve county functions
- Money-saving opportunities achieved through collaboration or "strength in numbers"
- Best practices from within or outside Maryland that could benefit county leaders attending the conference
- Innovative inter-agency efforts to improve "wrap around" services for targeted populations
- Other program or project discussions that emphasize partnership and collaboration

### SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL:

For your topic or session to be considered, please send me the following information by email ([vwhite@mdcounties.org](mailto:vwhite@mdcounties.org)) **no later than September 15, 2017:**

- Topic and/or draft title
- **Brief abstract of information to be covered** (LIMIT: 1-2 paragraphs)
- Suggested speakers (individual names or generic titles, e.g. county finance officer, Delegate, etc.)
- Contact information for follow-up

## SESSION FORMAT DETAILS:

MACo's educational sessions are typically 1 hour in length and focus on issues of interest to county government officials and staff. A proposed session does not need to fit the conference theme, but it is strongly encouraged.

To ensure that we present a balanced presentation with varying viewpoints, MACo's conference sessions will normally include 3, possibly 4, speakers; for example: a county representative, an academic representative, a State agency representative, and/or a commercial representative.

We frequently invite legislators to moderate the panels, particularly when the subject matter extends into state policy or potential legislation.

MACo's conference planning group is very open to other formats, but please keep in mind that if your topic is accepted, MACo may need to add or substitute speakers to achieve our desired level of viewpoint diversity – **MACo will make all decisions on speaker invitations.** If your topic is selected, a MACo staff person will be assigned to coordinate that session and invite speakers.

**We do not allow presentations that strive to sell a particular product or service as part of our educational session program.** If a commercial representative is included on a panel, they are included as an industry expert and are asked to speak broadly about industry best practices with only minimal focus on their particular commercial entity and only as it relates to the topic or project being discussed.

**If you represent a commercial organization and would like an opportunity to talk specifically about your product or service,** we offer a special Sponsor Showcase of 30-minute sessions on a topic of the sponsor's choice. Please contact Outreach Coordinator Nicolette Query at 410.269.0043 or [nquery@mdcounties.org](mailto:nquery@mdcounties.org) for more details.

## NOTIFICATION TIMETABLE:

MACo's conference planning group meets September 18 and makes decisions on a final slate of presentations by September 29. You will receive an email confirmation that your proposal was received right away, but notification of topic acceptance may not be until at least October 6.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached by phone at 410-269-0043 or by email at [ywhite@mdcounties.org](mailto:ywhite@mdcounties.org).