

January 20-22, 2026
Hyatt Centric Arlington

Updated 11/24/2025

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Senate Ballroom Foyer</i>	Registration Open and Exhibit Set Up Time
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Senate Salon A</i>	State Issues Forum All Registrants are Welcome Mohsen Badran , President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES NJ, <i>Moderator</i> This three-hour session (which attendees are welcome to join in progress as they arrive) will focus on what is happening in the states that affect disability service providers and the people they serve.
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. <i>Awbrey & Sons</i>	Welcome Reception Join us for hors d'oeuvres and libations before heading to dinner off-site or at Awbrey & Sons.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. <i>Senate Salon A</i>	Breakfast
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Senate Foyer</i>	Registration and Exhibits Open
8:00 a.m. – 8:10 a.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Welcome and Opening Remarks Kate McSweeney , President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES Brad Saathoff , Chief Executive Officer, Black Hills Works; Chair, ACCSES Board of Directors

8:10 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	The View from the Hill Kate McSweeney , President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES After an unusual 2025, there is a lot to talk about regarding the second half of the 119th Congress. Kate will review the current disability bills in the House and Senate and give a preview of what we might expect in 2026. Spoiler Alert: If it is anything like 2025, expect the unexpected.
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Session: TBA Dr. Craig Escudé, FAAFP, FAADM, FAAIDD , President, IntellectAbility Description Forthcoming
10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Break
10:10 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	What is New for 2026 In the CARF Annual Standards Manual Chasity Chamberlin , Managing Director of Employment and Community Services, CARF International CARF is making substantive changes in its Annual Standards Manual for 2026 for surveys conducted between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027. This session is intended to help CARF-surveyed providers prepare.
10:55 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	A Historical Moment with Emmett Fox Emmett Fox , George Mason University Mason LIFE Student In honor of America's Semiquincentennial Emmett will share insights on the history of our great country garnered through his studies, his travels, and his work as a volunteer guide at Gadsby's Tavern Museum in Alexandria, Virginia.
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Everything You Want to Know About the New Age of Hydroponics: Vertical Greenhouses Michael Carnright , Director of Commercial Operations, CW Resources Chris Di Grazia , Marketing & Growth Lead, Just Vertical Conner Tidd , Co-Founder, Just Vertical One of the hot topics that we hear about frequently is how to introduce hydroponic greenhouses into your businesses and homes. In this session, Michael and his colleagues at Just Vertical will review CW Resources' experience with its vertical greenhouse.
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. <i>Awbrey & Sons</i>	Networking Luncheon
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	CMS Update Curtis Cunningham , Director, Division of Long Term Services and Supports, Medicaid Benefits & Health Programs Group, Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services (virtual) Ryan Shannahan , Deputy Director, Division of Long Term Services and Supports, Medicaid Benefits & Health Programs Group, Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services (in

	person) Bring your ideas, questions and concerns! Curtis and Ryan will be with us to share what they are working on, and to learn more about your needs.
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Respite Resources for Innovation and Sustainability Jill Kagan, MPH, Program Director, ARCH National Respite Network Explore the importance of respite care and its impact on family caregivers. This session will cover the benefits of respite, common barriers to access, and practical strategies for helping caregivers use respite effectively. You'll also learn about resources from the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center designed to strengthen services, improve quality, and build program capacity.
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Dessert!
3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	That All May Read! Gabrielle Barnes, Communications & Outreach, National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), Library of Congress NLS is a free accessible library service that provides audio and braille books and magazines for people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness, or a physical or reading disability that prevents them from reading or holding the printed page. Through a national network of cooperating libraries, NLS offers books, magazines, and music materials the way you want them: in braille or audio, instantly downloadable or mailed to your door for free. Share the gift of reading and spread the word about NLS with your patrons and clients, so that all may read
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	The Latest on AbilityOne The Honorable Jon Porter, Founder/Chief Executive Officer, The Porter Group Rick Terrazas, Vice President, Government Affairs, SourceAmerica Kim Zeich, Executive Director, Ability One Commission Join in the open discussion of the AbilityOne Program, and other related federal concerns. This is the time to hear from the leaders about what to expect in 2026.
6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. <i>Top of the Town</i> <i>1400 14th St N,</i> <i>Arlington, VA</i> <i>22209</i>	250th Birthday Party for America America is turning 250 years old in July, and quite a celebration is planned! Imagine, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres overlooking D.C., sit-down dinner in a gorgeous ballroom, and a little musical salute to America after dinner. Speeches will be held to a minimum so that we all might enjoy a moment of celebration and reflection (and have time to take beautiful photographs of Washington at night. Hosted by ACCSES, Adelante, Black Hills Works, CW Resources, Diversified Enterprises, Peckham, PCSI, ServiceSource and The Abilities Connection – TAC Industries

Thursday, January 22, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. <i>Senate Salon A</i>	Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 8:10 a.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Welcome Back Kate McSweeney , President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Spotlight Session: TBA
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	The Ins and Outs of Adapting Your Organization to Ai: What You Need To Know Doug Golub , President & Chief Executive Officer, Data Potato; Chair, ACCSES Assistive Technology, Robotics, and Artificial Intelligence Committee Brad Saathoff , Chief Executive Officer, Black Hills Works This session is designed to give attendees the information they need to begin integrating artificial intelligence into their businesses. Brad will provide insights as to how artificial intelligence can be helpful.
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Leading With Purpose: Essential Durable Skills for Service Leaders Dr. Brenda Bouse , Owner & Chief Executive Officer, The Quality Coach Brenda, who has vast experience in supporting leaders to meet their full potential, will focus her talk around four key pillars: Self Awareness, High Trust Behaviors, Communication is Care, and Mindset.
10:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Break
10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Spotlight Session: TBA
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Stop Wasting Time: How Fixing Meetings Builds Better Organizations Jessica Kohnen , Co-Founder and Consultant, hyve Many nonprofits organizations never think to train staff on how to run effective meetings—resulting in frustration, lost time, poor decisions, and diminished impact. This hands-on learning session introduces practical facilitation techniques that improve brainstorming, inclusivity, and follow-through—helping every meeting strengthen culture, alignment, and results.
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. <i>Awbrey & Sons</i>	Networking Luncheon

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Actually, It's a Rom-Com: Dispelling Myths about Interabled Relationships Zach and Karlee Anner When newlyweds Zach and Karlee Anner mentioned an idea for a joint presentation about their life as a couple, we knew instantly it was something special. Now, we are thrilled to debut this brand-new session at the ACCSES 2026 Winter Summit. If we could, we'd have Zach and Karlee at every conference forever—they bring joy, the heart, and the energy that make any event unforgettable.
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	An invitation has been issued for this time period, and we are awaiting a response.
3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Dessert!
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	The Ins and Outs and Some Things You May Not Know About Ticket to Work Elizabeth Jennings, M.A.P.P. , Deputy Director, National Disability Institute (NDI) This is the year that you may want to introduce Ticket to Work into your employment plans. Elizabeth will give you the full story on how to make TTW work for your organizations without overtaxing your staff.
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. <i>Senate Salon B&C</i>	Insights from The Small Business Association Office of Advocacy On Cybersecurity, Employment, and Small Businesses David Mullis , Assistant Chief Counsel, SBA Office of Advocacy Janis Reyes , Assistant Chief Counsel, SBA Office of Advocacy, Employment and Immigration In mid-2025, we got a call from Janis asking a question relating to a proposed regulation. Until then, we did not realize the SBA had an Office of Advocacy, and since then we have attended webinars and roundtables hosted by the Office of Advocacy on a variety of topics, including cybersecurity, an increasingly important topic for everyone.