



# 2026 Winter Policy Forum

February 25, 2026 | National Harbor, MD

*Draft Agenda*

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 | BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7:30a – 8:30a	<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS BREAKFAST</b>	Woodrow Wilson B
8:30a – 5:00p	<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING</b>	Woodrow Wilson CD
5:30p – 7:00p	<b>HOSPITALITY DESK</b> *Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions/meetings	Woodrow Wilson Reg Desk
5:30p – 7:00p	<b>WINTER POLICY FORUM WELCOME RECEPTION</b> <i>with Exhibitors</i>	Woodrow Wilson Lobby
<b>HOSPITALITY DESK</b> *Check in & pick up your name badge		

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 | WINTER POLICY FORUM

7:30a – 5:00p	<b>HOSPITALITY DESK</b> *Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions/meetings	Woodrow Wilson Reg Desk
8:00a – 4:00p	<b>EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE</b>	Woodrow Wilson Lobby
8:00a – 9:00a	<b>HOSTED BREAKFAST</b>	Woodrow Wilson A
9:00a – 10:45a	<b>OPENING PLENARY SESSION</b>	Woodrow Wilson A

## WELCOME & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Cami Feek**, Commissioner, Washington State Employment Security Division

## NASWA WELCOME

**Scott B. Sanders**, President & CEO, NASWA

## A WORD FROM OUR GOLD SPONSORS

## THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE FOR 2026

**John Colbert**, Co-Founder and Partner, Capitol Hill Partners

## THE ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE OF 2026

10:45a – 11:15a **BEVERAGE BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS** Woodrow Wilson Lobby

11:15a – 12:00p **PLENARY SESSION** Woodrow Wilson A

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR LEADERSHIP SESSION

**Lori Chavez-DeRemer**, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor (*invited*)

### USDOL Speaker Panel (*invited*)

12:00p – 1:15p **WINTER WORKFORCE INNOVATION AWARDS LUNCHEON** Woodrow Wilson A

12:00p – 12:45p **HOSTED LUNCHEON**

12:45p – 1:15p **INNOVATION AWARDS**

The Winter Workforce Innovations Awards are presented by several of NASWA's national policy committees.

- The **Merrill Baumgardner Innovation in Information Technology Award** is presented by the Technology Committee and a state demonstrating excellence in the field of information technology.
- The **Data Insights and Innovations Award** is presented by the Workforce & Labor Market Information Committee and honors a state workforce agency, or partnership involving a state workforce agency, for achievements related to labor market and workforce information.

- **\*\*NEW\*\*** The **Excellence in Communications Award** is presented by the Communications Committee and recognizes a state workforce agency, or partnership involving a state workforce agency for outstanding achievement in the field of communications, recognizing individuals or teams who have demonstrated creativity, clarity, and impact in their messaging.
- The **William J. Harris Equal Opportunity Award** is presented by the Equal Opportunity Committee and recognizes a state or partnership involving a state, for an innovative workforce-related program, project, or initiative which results in significant contributions towards the achievement of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination.
- The **Pinnacle Award for Business Development** is presented by the Employment & Training Committee and honors a state workforce agency for an innovative business services initiative, framework, or effort of national impact, that addresses the employment / workforce needs of businesses at one or several stages and results in significant positive impacts for businesses.
- The **Pinnacle Award for Workforce Development** is presented by the Employment & Training Committee and recognizes a state workforce agency for an innovative workforce project, strategy, or initiative that involves assisting certain or all customers with career services and/or the attainment of in-demand skills and credentials, and which results in significant contributions towards the achievement of opportunity for customers.

1:15p – 1:30p      **BREAK**

1:30p – 3:00p      **PLENARY SESSION**

Woodrow Wilson A

## HEARING FROM THE HILL

**Senate HELP Staff** (*invited*)

**Isabel Soto**, Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Education and Workforce

**Scott Estrada**, Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Education and Workforce

## IMPLEMENTING THE NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Speakers:      **Caprice Knapp**, Acting Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

**Lindsey Browning**, Deputy Executive Director of Programs, National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMd)

3:00p – 3:30p      **BEVERAGE BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS**      Woodrow Wilson Lobby

3:30p – 5:00p      **CLOSING PLENARY SESSION**      Woodrow Wilson A

**NAVIGATING ED-LABOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**

**OVERVIEW OF NASWA'S 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**FACILITATED MEMBER BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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7:30a – 5:00p      **HOSPITALITY DESK**      Woodrow Wilson  
Reg Desk  
\*Check in & pick up your name badge to  
attend all sessions/meetings

7:30a – 9:00a      **HOSTED COMMITTEES BREAKFAST**      Woodrow Wilson A

8:30a – 5:00p      **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE  
COMMITTEE MEETING**      Annapolis 3-4

8:30a – 5:00p      **EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING  
COMMITTEE MEETING**      Baltimore 3-4

8:30a – 5:00p      **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING**      Annapolis 1-2

8:30a – 5:00p      **PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE  
COMMITTEE MEETING**      Woodrow Wilson C

8:30a – 5:00p      **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING**      Woodrow Wilson B

8:30a – 5:00p      **WORKFORCE & LABOR MARKET  
INFORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING**      Baltimore 1-2

9:00a – 5:00p	<b>COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Woodrow Wilson D
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12:00p – 1:30p	<b>HOSTED COMMITTEES LUNCH</b>	Woodrow Wilson A
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## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 | COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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7:30a – 9:00a	<b>HOSTED COMMITTEES BREAKFAST</b>	Baltimore 1 Foyer; Woodrow Wilson B Lobby
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8:30a – 12:00p	<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Annapolis 3-4
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8:30a – 12:00p	<b>EMPLOYMENT &amp; TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Baltimore 3-4
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8:30a – 12:00p	<b>EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Annapolis 1-2
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8:30a – 12:00p	<b>PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Woodrow Wilson C
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8:30a – 12:00p	<b>TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Woodrow Wilson B
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8:30a – 12:00p	<b>WORKFORCE &amp; LABOR MARKET INFORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Baltimore 1-2
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9:00a – 12:00p	<b>COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Woodrow Wilson D
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