



Annual Conference

July 21-23, 2027 | Chicago, IL

NCPG Annual Conference 2027 Program & Review Volunteer Opportunities

The National Council on Problem Gambling is convening a distinguished group of professionals to help guide the NCPG Annual Conference 2027 which will be held July 21–23, 2027, in Chicago, IL.

This is an invitation to collaborate with peers across research, treatment, prevention, recovery, responsible gambling, and related areas to ensure the conference reflects the field's most pressing needs. Together, we will identify the priorities, voices, and ideas that deserve a place on the national stage and help ensure every session delivers practical, evidence-based value to attendees.

Two volunteer bodies make this work possible, NCPG is recruiting participants for both:

- **NCPG Conference Program Workgroup** — A select group of field leaders who will work together to identify the priorities and voices that will define the conference.
- **NCPG Conference Peer Review Panel** — A peer-review body that evaluates submitted proposals to help ensure the program reflects sound, evidence-based content.

Both opportunities are open to current NCPG members only. Please review the roles below and [complete the application HERE](#).

Additional Opportunity to Get Involved

As NCPG begins planning for the 2027 conference, the organization is also interested in hearing from members who may be interested in volunteering onsite during the conference. This is an early expression of interest only and does not represent a commitment to volunteer or guarantee a volunteer opportunity. Responses will help NCPG understand the potential volunteer pool as planning gets underway. Additional details will be shared with respondents as conference planning progresses.

At a Glance

	Conference Program Workgroup	Conference Peer Review Panel
Focus	Sets the educational strategy and direction of the conference	Reviews and scores submitted proposals for quality and evidence base
Volunteer Qualifications	Recognized leaders in their area of the field	A mix of qualified professionals with relevant expertise
Size	No more than 10 members	Scaled to submission volume; may be expanded as needed
Service Period	October 2026 – August 2027	October 2026 – January 2027, including training and a concentrated review window
Time Commitment	~Initially will meet weekly to establish the conference program from October through January and then support as needed until the conference dates.	Reviewer training + up to ~25 proposals in the review window
Minimum Eligibility	Current NCPG members	Current NCPG members
Selection	Competitive; by application and staff review	By application and staff review

NCPG Conference Program Workgroup

Purpose

The Conference Program Workgroup sets the educational direction of the NCPG Annual Conference before the call for presentations opens. Working from NCPG’s strategic priorities, member and attendee feedback, and an environmental scan of the field, the workgroup defines the conference’s educational objectives, themes, and priority content areas; identifies gaps; and recommends invited speakers and sessions to meet those objectives. The workgroup is advisory: it shapes and recommends, while NCPG staff make final programming decisions.

Responsibilities

- Define target audience for the conference. Based on this, define the objectives for the conference.
 - Define the conference’s overarching educational objectives and help shape an annual theme. Establish at least three objectives that will support continuing education credit needs of individuals attending.
 - Identify priority content areas, emerging science and trends, and evergreen topics supported by new evidence
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- Surface content gaps and underrepresented perspectives
- Recommend invited speakers, keynotes, plenaries, and intentionally planned sessions aligned to the objectives
- Advise on the balance between invited and submitted content; goal should be 75% invited and 25% from abstract submissions. Helps control content and speakers and diversify speaker pool.
- Help ensure every session ties to a strategic priority
- Serve as ambassadors for the conference, strengthening stakeholder engagement and helping promote the event

Volunteer Qualifications

This is a selective, high-impact opportunity reserved for recognized leaders in their areas of the field. NCPG is assembling a small group whose combined expertise span:

- Research and academia
- Prevention and public health
- Treatment and clinical practice
- Responsible gambling
- Recovery and lived experience
- Advocacy and policy
- Emerging issues and markets

The workgroup also includes representation from the conference co-host, the Illinois Council on Problem Gambling. Strong candidates are well-connected, current on developments in their domain, and able to think strategically about the direction of the field.

Conference Program Workgroup Selection Criteria

Seats for the Conference Program Workgroup are limited to a small number of participants. Applications will be reviewed competitively using consistent selection criteria. Strong candidates will demonstrate:

- **Field Expertise & Contributions:** Demonstrated expertise and meaningful contributions to their area of the field through research, professional or clinical leadership, program development, publications, presentations, advocacy, awards, or other significant work.
 - **Current Knowledge:** Active engagement with current research, emerging issues, innovations, and developments relevant to their area of expertise.
 - **Strategic Perspective:** The ability to look beyond individual topics or sessions and identify emerging priorities, trends, and opportunities that can inform the broader direction of the conference and the field.
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- **Relevant Networks & Reach:** Professional connections and knowledge of the field that can help identify and recruit high-quality speakers, emerging experts, and voices or perspectives that may not typically be represented at the conference.
- **Education-First Approach:** A commitment to developing high-quality, evidence-based educational content that prioritizes attendee learning and professional development over promotional or commercial interests.
- **Collaboration & Workgroup Fit:** The ability to work collegially with individuals representing different perspectives and areas of expertise; consider differing viewpoints; provide constructive input; and contribute to collective decision-making.

Final selection will also consider the overall composition of the Workgroup. The goal is to create a balanced group representing a range of expertise, professional perspectives, backgrounds, geographic representation, and other experiences that strengthen the conference program and support a broad, forward-looking perspective.

Composition & Service Period

The Workgroup will be no more than 10 members. The Workgroup convenes in early October 2026 and serves through the July 2027 conference, concluding with an early-August 2027 debrief that informs the 2028 cycle.

Time Commitment

Regular virtual meetings will be held more frequently, up to weekly, during the priority-setting phase in early fall 2026 and then approximately monthly, with focused review meetings in December 2026 and possibly January 2027. Plan for roughly two to four hours per month, with heavier activity during peak planning.

Eligibility

Open to current NCPG members only.

What You Will Gain

- A meaningful leadership role shaping the direction of the field's premier conference
- Discounted conference registration
- Recognition in conference materials
- Connection with a select group of leaders across disciplines

NCPG Conference Peer Review Panel

Purpose

The Conference Peer Review Panel safeguards the quality and scientific integrity of the conference program. Members conduct blind, criteria-based peer review of submitted proposals, scoring them against an established rubric so that the final program reflects sound, evidence-based, and practically useful content. Members may also be invited to support NCPG's broader educational content review throughout the year.

Responsibilities

- Complete the self-paced reviewer training before scoring begins
- Conduct blind, unbiased review of assigned proposals (up to approximately 25 per reviewer)
- Score submissions against the established criteria and provide constructive comments
- Recuse from any submission that presents a conflict of interest
- Meet all review deadlines

Volunteer Qualifications

A mix of qualified professionals from across the field who can fairly and knowledgeably evaluate proposals in their area, including:

- Treatment / clinical
- Prevention / public health
- Responsible gambling
- Recovery / lived experience
- Research
- Advocacy / policy
- Tribal
- Sports / emerging markets
- Other (specify below)

Please note: Reviewers do not need to be senior leaders. They need relevant expertise and the ability to review fairly and on time.

Service Period

Reviewers are recruited in September 2026 and complete self-guided training in October 2026. The concentrated review runs from November through December 2026, with final recommendations completed in January 2027.

Time Commitment

Self-paced reviewer training plus review of up to approximately 25 assigned proposals during the review window. Most of the work is concentrated over roughly six to eight weeks.

Eligibility

Open to current NCPG members only.

What You Will Gain

- A direct role in shaping a high-quality, evidence-based program
- Discounted conference registration
- Recognition as an NCPG conference reviewer
- Early insight into emerging work across the field

Eligibility, Selection & Timeline

Membership Requirement

These opportunities are open to current NCPG members only. If your membership has lapsed, or you are not yet a member, please renew or join at NCPGambling.org/membership/ before applying.

Selection

Applications are reviewed by NCPG staff. Conference Program Workgroup selection is competitive, and members will be identified based on the selection criteria. Conference Peer Review Panel selection considers relevant expertise and the ability to review fairly and meet deadlines. All applicants are notified of decisions by email.

Individuals who express their interest in volunteering onsite will be contacted with details at a later date.

Recruitment Timeline

Opportunity	Key dates
Conference Program Workgroup	Applications open September 3, 2026 Deadline September 18, 2026 Workgroup convenes early October 2026
Conference Peer Review Panel	Applications open September 3, 2026 Deadline September 18, 2026 Self-Paced Training in October 2026 Review window November–December 2026
