

# 2026 Community Action Association of Alabama & Building Alabama Reinvestment Joint Conference

## Conference Schedule

May 12–15, 2026 | Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel

Advancing Leadership, Strengthening Communities

### At a Glance

**Tuesday, May 12:** BAR conference day, exhibits, advocacy keynote, and welcome reception.

**Wednesday, May 13:** Opening panel, advocacy session, breakout tracks, AI series, and FCC training.

**Thursday, May 14:** Fireside chat, leadership and operations sessions, AI series, FCC training, dinner, and entertainment.

**Friday, May 15:** Breakfast, breakout, conference close-out, CAAA Board Meeting and departures.

### Day 1 | Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Time	Session	Details
8:00–8:30 AM	Pre-Conference Registration	Includes BAR Conference access on Tuesday, May 12. Please note that CAAA member registration already includes access to sessions taking place on May 12.
10:00 AM–12:00 PM	Exhibit Set-Up	
8:45–9:00 AM	Opening and Welcome	Welcome led by Bob Dickerson and Kris Rowe
9:00–10:00 AM	General Session	Bryan Brown
10:00–10:30 AM	Networking Break	
10:30 AM–12:00 PM	Breakout Session I	Track A: Board Governance & Financial Stewardship Track B: Strengthening Communities Through Housing Partnerships
12:00–1:00 PM	Lunch	Lunch is provided to conference attendees

<b>1:00–2:30 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Session II</b>	Track A: Financial Systems That Strengthen Nonprofit Organizations Track B: Strengthening Nonprofits Through Practical Technology and Systems
<b>2:30–3:00 PM</b>	<b>Networking Break</b>	
<b>3:00–4:30 PM</b>	<b>General Session</b>	From Community Voice to Policy Action Susan Kennedy and Tafeni English
<b>4:30–4:45 PM</b>	<b>Closing Reflections</b>	
<b>5:00–6:30 PM</b>	<b>Networking Reception</b>	Enjoy a networking reception with light bites and hors d’oeuvres as you mingle and connect with fellow conference attendees.
<b>10:30 AM–3:00 PM</b>	<b>Special Concurrent Training</b>	FCC Mindset and Toolkit available as a focused training option.

## Day 2 | Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Time	Session	Details
<b>8:30–9:00 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	Breakfast is provided to conference attendees
<b>9:00–10:20 AM</b>	<b>Opening Keynote</b>	Leadership in Action: A Mayor’s Perspective on Strengthening Alabama Communities
<b>10:20–10:30 AM</b>	<b>Networking Break</b>	Enjoy a networking break with light snacks and coffee while connecting with sponsors, exhibitors, partners, and fellow conference attendees.
<b>10:30–11:30 AM</b>	<b>Advocacy Session</b>	From Policy to Progress: Advocacy Strategies for Community Impact
<b>11:30 AM–1:15 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	Lunch is on your own. Take time to explore Birmingham’s local dining options or enjoy lunch at the hotel.
<b>1:15–2:15 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Session I</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Track A: Intro to AI for Nonprofits: What It Is, Why It Matters, and Where to Start</li> <li>B. Track B: From Collaboration to Change, Part I</li> <li>C. Track C: Employee Engagement Pro Tips: Optimizing Internal Communications to Amplify Engagement</li> <li>D. Track D: Powering Partnership: Innovation, Access, and Impact Across Alabama</li> <li>E. Track E: Compliance-Part 1: An overview of key compliance requirements under Uniform Guidance, with a focus on procurement and application of cost principles.</li> </ul>
<b>2:15–2:30 AM</b>	<b>Networking Break</b>	Enjoy a networking break with light snacks and coffee while connecting with sponsors, exhibitors, partners, and fellow conference attendees.
<b>2:30–3:30 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Session II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Track A: AI in Action: Maximizing Workflow, Saving Time, and Doing More with Less</li> <li>B. Track B: From Collaboration to Change, Part II</li> <li>C. Track C: HR Compliance Essentials for Community Action Agencies</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D. Track D: Successfully Competing for Funding</li> <li>E. Track E: Compliance-Part 2: An overview of key compliance requirements with a focus on audit and monitoring readiness, strengthening internal controls, and avoiding common findings in community action agencies.</li> </ul>
<b>3:45–4:45 PM</b>	<b>Keynote</b>	Turning Data Into Direction: Using Community Needs Assessments to Drive Action
<b>10:30 AM–3:00 PM</b>	<b>Special Concurrent Training</b>	FCC Mindset and Toolkit available as a focused training option.

## Day 3 | Thursday, May 14, 2026

Time	Session	Details
<b>8:10 AM–9:10 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast &amp; Keynote</b>	Breakfast is provided to conference attendees Keynote: Scott Schubert- Chief Executive Officer Fortell AI Community
<b>9:10 AM –10:10 AM</b>	<b>Fireside Chat</b>	Fireside Chat with Kris Rowe, Executive Director, Community Action Association of Alabama and Staci Brown Brooks, Vice President-Charitable Giving, Alabama Power Foundation
<b>10:10 AM –10:20 AM</b>	<b>Networking Break</b>	Enjoy a networking break with light snacks and coffee while connecting with sponsors, exhibitors, partners, and fellow conference attendees.
<b>10:20 AM –11:20 AM</b>	<b>Breakout Session III</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Track A: #LEADERSHIPGOALS: Becoming the Leader Your Team Needs Right Now</li> <li>B. Track B: Accidental Case Manager: Expectations, Empathy, De-escalation &amp; Burnout</li> <li>C. Track C: From Audit to Inspection: Mastering Weatherization with WAPLink</li> </ul>
<b>11:20 AM–1:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	Lunch will be on your own, giving you the opportunity to enjoy one of Birmingham’s local restaurants or have breakfast at the hotel.
<b>1:15 PM–2:15 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Session IV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Track A: Reporting: A practical look at grant reporting in Alabama for CSBG, LIHEAP, Weatherization, and other grant programs funded through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA).</li> <li>B. Track B: Telling Your Story with Data: Annual Reporting in LITT</li> <li>C. Track C: Powering Partnership: Innovation, Access, and Impact Across Alabama</li> </ul>
<b>2:30 PM–3:30 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Session V</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Track A: Agency Fiscal Health: Strategies to assess and strengthen agency fiscal health, including financial ratios, revenue diversification, crisis response planning, and effective board engagement.</li> <li>B. Track B: Learning That Lasts: Leveraging the CAAA LMS for Staff Growth</li> </ul>

		C. Track C: Resilience & Recovery: Preparing Your Organization for Tomorrow
<b>6:00 PM–9:00 PM</b>	<b>CAAA Closing Dinner</b>	Join us for the CAAA Closing Dinner as we come together for an evening of fellowship, celebration, and connection as we close out the conference.
<b>10:30 AM–3:00 PM</b>	<b>Special Concurrent Training</b>	FCC Mindset and Toolkit available as a focused training option.

## Day 4 | Friday, May 15, 2026

Time	Session	Details
<b>7:30 AM–9:00 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	Breakfast will be on your own, giving you the opportunity to enjoy one of Birmingham’s local restaurants or have breakfast at the hotel.
<b>9:00 AM – 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Plenary</b>	Strategic Program Planning with LITT: A Guided Workplan Workshop
<b>10:30 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Conference Close-out Session</b>	
<b>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</b>	<b>CAAA Board of Directors Meeting</b>	

### Program Notes

- *AI for Good is positioned as a four-part learning series and certification across Wednesday and Thursday.*
- *FCC Mindset and Toolkit is listed as a concurrent training option from 10:30 AM–3:00 PM on conference days where noted.*