

## **ASHA 2026 Capitol Hill Day Application Frequently Asked Questions**

See more: <https://www.asha.org/news/advocacy-news/>

Apply: <https://ashaprograms.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/2562/home>

### **When and where will the event take place?**

September 22-23, 2026, Washington, DC

Event schedule is to be determined, but advocates should expect to be in preparation sessions from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on September 22 and spend 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Capitol Hill September 23.

### **Who can apply?**

ASHA members, ASHA-certified assistants, and National NSSLHA members.

### **What are the eligibility requirements?**

Candidates must:

- Be a current ASHA member, ASHA-certified assistant, or National NSSLHA member.
- Be available and able to attend an in-person briefing session on September 22, 2026, in Washington, DC.
- Be available and able to attend up to six in-person meetings at various times throughout the day on September 23, 2026, as scheduled by ASHA Advocacy staff.
- Be able to cover transportation and lodging expenses.
- Be passionate about advocating and willing to speak with your legislators and/or their staff about a variety of topics impacting the professions and the people you serve.
- Be willing to be photographed.

### **How much does the event cost? Will ASHA pay for my transportation and lodging?**

This event is free. Advocates are responsible for their expenses, including transportation to/from Washington, DC, and lodging.

ASHA will provide:

- Meeting space on preparation day.
- Food and beverage during select events, such as on preparation day and during the Hill Day Reception.
- Space on Capitol Hill in ASHA's DC office for advocates to stop in for a break between meetings.
- Access to a hotel block for nearby accommodations.
- Opportunity to connect with fellow advocates for those seeking a room or transportation companion.

### **What do Hill Day advocates receive?**

- Personalized itinerary for both days of the event.
- Access to the AdvocacyDay app that serves as a one-stop shop for resources and information to prepare for Hill Day and communicate with other participants.
- Training, resources, and materials to prepare you for Hill Day meetings and success in future advocacy efforts.
- Resources and materials to promote your experience and educate others on how to support and replicate your efforts.
- Certificate of attendance verifying professional development hours for your learning experience.
- Access to the 2026 Hill Day reception.
- Access to the 2026 Hill Day Community site.

### **What is the event schedule?**

The precise schedule is forthcoming. Advocates should expect to take part in preparation day activities from 11am – 5pm (ET) on September 22. On September 23, advocates are expected to be available between 8:30am – 5:30pm (ET) for a group photo and up to six meetings with members of Congress.

### **Will there be special accommodations available?**

Yes. Accepted applicants will be prompted to provide information on the RSVP form and ASHA staff will work to accommodate. If you have any questions before applying, please feel free to contact [federal@asha.org](mailto:federal@asha.org).

### **Are you offering ASHA CEUs for this event?**

ASHA Advocacy will offer a certificate of attendance verifying professional development hours for this event. Advocates can keep this certificate in their records to verify the activity if prompted. This event is not offered for ASHA CEUs.

### **Why September?**

Many factors went into this decision. September is a key opportunity to connect with legislators in person between two month-long breaks in their calendars. As the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress comes to an end at the close of 2026, this is a pivotal opportunity to get existing legislation passed before the current Congress ends and the new Congress begins when bills that are not enacted must be reintroduced.

We understand that it may not be possible for some members to join. ASHA Advocacy assists members year-round in meeting with their legislators. If you are unable to attend Hill Day in September, but want to come another time, we encourage you to email [federal@asha.org](mailto:federal@asha.org).

### **Isn't lobbying for the professions ASHA staff's job?**

ASHA Advocacy works year-round advocating for the professions both at the federal and state level. However, your elected officials value interactions with and asks directly from their constituents. When you visit Capitol Hill, you can share real-life stories and experiences that open your legislators' eyes to issues impacting their community. ASHA Advocacy staff will be available to assist in meetings and ensure advocates are equipped with the information and resources necessary for successful conversations. The more voices they hear, the louder the message!

### **Questions?**

Contact [federal@asha.org](mailto:federal@asha.org) for more information.