



2009 Policy Summit Portland, OR

Program Highlights

As all of you know who attended APHSA's Policy Summit last year in Nashville, Tenn., this meeting is one of the most important on our calendar. It is a unique opportunity for APHSA's health and human service commissioners, affiliate organizations, and program administrators to focus intensely on APHSA's policy priorities, implementation strategies, and action plans for communicating our interests to national policymakers. The 2009 APHSA Policy Summit will take place in Portland, Ore., this coming December 7-8, and will provide another critical opportunity for us to review and discuss our policy and reform plans. Among the key topics will be our relationships with the new Administration and Congress; our successes so far, and remaining challenges, in implementing our *Focal Point* agenda; health care reform's effects; reauthorization of programs in important areas such as child welfare, TANF, and child care; and how we can positively and effectively "tell the public human service story."

The Policy Summit will be organized around these major priorities:

- Dialogue with key officials from the Obama Administration;
- A review of APHSA policy positions and strategies with focus on the key programs now in play or up for reauthorization, and the interactions among these programs;
- How every APHSA member can exert critical influence with national policymakers, particularly your House and Senate delegation;
- Development and implementation of a strong, positive, consistent message and image campaign for public human service programs and priorities.

A preliminary agenda is available on our website for your information and planning. This is an event that every health and human service administrator will benefit from and can contribute to. We realize that travel funds are at a premium but urge you to consider the benefits of your presence and the chance to network directly with key policymakers and your peers from across the country.