

2026 CDS Annual Conference Best Paper Award Terms and Conditions

1. Overview of the Award

The Best Paper Award is a cash prize designed to recognize academic writing, practical case studies, teaching/ pedagogical work, and community-engaged excellence. A maximum of two full conference papers will be selected for this award, and the prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the Society. A maximum of two awards (\$250 each) will be selected for the best academic and best practice paper/ s. To apply for the awards, applicants can choose to submit research/ pedagogical learning from practice papers.

2. Eligibility Criteria and Timeline

- Abstract Proposals: To be eligible for consideration for the award, authors must submit an abstract conference presentation and journal paper proposal by 11:59 PM Central Time (US) on November 19, 2025.
- Full Paper: A full paper that meets the submission requirements must be submitted by Sunday, July 19, 2026 at 5 pm Eastern Time (Georgia, USA). Only full conference paper proposals (5,000+ words [academic] and 3000+ [practice]) will be eligible for the Best Paper Award(s).
- Only one proposal for each area (academic and practice) will be selected for the award. This conference paper will be reviewed, revised, and published in *Community Development* within one year.

3. Submission Requirements

- To qualify for initial consideration, an abstract of the paper/presentation must be submitted by November 19, 2025 through the Call for Proposals Submission Process.
- The full conference paper (5,000+ words [academic] and 3000+ [practice]) must be submitted by the day of the 2026 CDS Conference, **following the journal's style guidelines** and reflect the **CDS Principles of Good Practice**, for full consideration. The paper will be solicited via a separate invited solicitation for conference papers.
- To qualify, the author/ s must present the paper (in part or whole) at the Conference.

4. Award Determination

- The Society will determine the best paper via a peer review that assesses originality, impact, methodology, and practical insights.
- Only full conference papers (5,000+ words [academic] and 3000+ [practice]) will be reviewed for the award.
- The winner will be notified following the selection; the decision is final. The selection process is estimated to be completed by September 1, 2026.

5. Prize Details

- Taylor and Francis sponsors the Best Paper Award and contributes a payment of \$250 towards each prize totaling \$500.
- The monetary prize will be sent directly to the author/s within 30 days after the winner has been announced.
- In addition to the cash prize, the winning paper will be accessible for free for a limited period, and the author will be encouraged to share the paper among their professional networks to drive engagement.

6. Publication and Promotion

- The Publisher and the Society will highlight the winning paper.
- Non-CDS members will have free access to the winning paper online for a limited period, after which regular access conditions will apply. CDS members have access to *Community Development* as part of their membership.
- The journal will publish the papers that win the competition, so papers should be original work that have not been published somewhere else.

7. General Terms

- The Society reserves the right to modify these terms and conditions at any time.
- By submitting an abstract proposal and later conference paper, authors agree to abide by the rules set forth by the Society for the Best Paper Award.
- Reviews of the submitted conference papers will take place during the CDS Conference.
- Winners will be announced on the CDS website and the Vanguard online newsletter.
- Editors of *Community Development* and those participating in the blind review of conference papers are ineligible for consideration.

If you are interested in being considered for the Best Paper Award please submit at minimum your abstract no later than the **November 19, 2025 Early Acceptance Deadline**.

All deadlines are by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (US) of the date specified in the 2026 CDS Annual Conference Call for Proposals Timeline.

Learn more about the 2025 CDS Conference on our website: CDSociety.org.

If you are not a member of the CDS, please consider joining the society by clicking [HERE](#).