Call for Proposals

FFTA 37th Annual Conference

Hyatt Regency Columbus | July 10-13, 2023

Proposals Due January 31, 2023
For the last 36 years, FFTA has convened for our Annual Conference, bringing together leaders, practitioners, and partners in the sector to leverage our collective knowledge and share proven solutions for advancing wellness for all families and communities. Our Annual Conference provides a setting to equip individuals and organizations that support families and communities with the resources needed to be most effective. To accomplish this, we wish to welcome and elevate a diverse array of voices for attendees to learn from and alongside, specifically groups that have been historically over-represented in child and family service systems, while often under-represented in the leadership of these same systems.

As such, it is our goal to expand representation of Black, Indigenous and People of Color, the LGBTQIA community, and those with lived experience in child welfare and/or mental health service systems, across all facets of our Annual Conference.

FFTA’s Annual Conference serves as a forum for innovation and a catalyst for advancing services towards greater equity and impact across the full spectrum of health and human services. We invite our extensive and diverse network of members and partners to join us in this important work by submitting a proposal to present at the 37th FFTA Conference being held July 10-13, 2023 in Columbus, Ohio.

“...the training was excellent, speakers memorable, the facilities top notch and the new adjustments were perfect ... I appreciate all you did to pull off such an amazing conference.”
We welcome proposals and content in or relevant to the following Areas of Focus:

**Workplace Wellness:**
We must invest in practices that ensure our workforce is fully supported and well-prepared for the critical work of helping families.

- Creating an Organizational Culture of Caring
- Trauma-Informed Supervision Strategies
- Designing Employee Friendly Benefits
- Healthier Communities Start with Healthier Employees
- Coaching and Supporting Teams
- Virtual Supervision
- Managing Through Turnover
- Career Development

**Supporting Families Within Their Communities:**
Children and families thrive when they’re connected to strong supportive communities.

- Early Childhood and Home Visitation Services
- Resource-Biological Family Partnerships
- Kin-First Focused Supports and Services
- Family Preservation and In-home Support Services
- Community Building Strategies to Prevent the Need for Formal Child Welfare Services
- Community-based Family Centered Mental Health Services
- Community-based Targeted Resource Family Recruitment

**Community-Driven Policy and Engagement:**
Family serving organizations are most effective when they bring together community resources to lift up community voices for positive change.

- Federal Policy Needs and Impact
- Fundraising Strategies
- Volunteer Engagement
- Collaborating with Non-Traditional Community Partners
- Public Relations and Media Management
- Engaging Communities Via Social Media
- Local Funding Initiatives Replicable in Other Areas

**Cross-Sector Partnerships and Beyond:**
To strengthen communities and best serve all families, it is imperative to look beyond the traditional child welfare sector to eliminate silos, find solutions, and demonstrate greater positive impact.

- Partnership Beyond a Contract: Keys to Authentic Collaboration
- Public/Private Contracts for Child Welfare
- Partnering with Research Institutions to Drive Outcomes
- Keys to Effective Public/Private Sector Partnerships
- Mental Health Services in Schools
- Technology Solutions in Health and Human Services
- Universities and Their Faculty as Resources for System Improvements
- Developing a New Service vs. Partnering With an Existing Organization
**Equity in Child Welfare and Mental Health Systems:**
To best serve all families and communities, we must proactively address disproportionality, disparate outcomes and inequity in the health and human services sector.

**Proven Solutions in Direct Practice:**
We must ensure that we provide those working directly with children and/or families with the knowledge, tools and resources they need to be effective in their important work.

**Leading for Today and Tomorrow:**
We must continue to support sector Leaders through the immense challenges of recent years, while also offering hope, connections and strategies to lead the change we want to see for the future.

- Decolonizing Approaches for Working With Indigenous Families and Communities
- Effective Mental Health Service Delivery in Rural Communities
- Services for Unaccompanied Migrant Children
- Strategies for Addressing Disproportionality and Disparate Outcomes in Service Systems
- Transitions to Independence
- Elevating the Voices of Those with Lived Experience
- Cross-cultural competencies
- Cultural Safety

- Family and Individual Therapeutic and Clinical Services
- Trauma-informed Interventions
- Differential Diagnostic Assessments
- Psychotropic Medication Management
- Parenting Through Trauma
- Trauma Informed Support for Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Families
- Integrated Physical and Behavioral Health Care Strategies
- Supporting Youth and Their Families Through Crises
- Emerging Family Focused Substance Abuse Treatments
- Relationship-centered Approaches to Support and Treatment
- Improving Service Delivery through Quality Assurance Activities

- New/Emerging Funding Trends
- Creating An Equitable Organizational Culture
- Building a More Representative and Equitable Leadership Team
- Mergers, Acquisitions, and Partnerships
- Strategic Planning
- Liability Insurance Risk Management
- Creating Space and Resources for Innovation
- Emerging Digital Strategies to Meet Business Needs
- Board Recruitment, Development, Engagement and Effectiveness

"Excellent conference with a variety of valuable content, difficult to select sometimes because there were so many good choices!"
Session Formats

**Traditional Workshops**
The topic in these 60, 90 or 120-minutes workshops should fall under or be closely related to at least one of the identified Areas of Focus.

**Roundtable Reflections**
Attendance at these discussion-based 60 or 90 minute sessions will be strictly limited to thirty professionals and are geared toward organizational leaders. PowerPoint presentations will not be accepted.

**Storyboard Presentations**
On Monday, July 10, after an opening session in an informal and social environment, "Storyboard Presentations" will be held. Present your research or evaluation project, share a challenge your agency has overcome, or engage in a creative storytelling session about your own experience within the system. Innovative solutions and creative content are strongly encouraged.

**Diversity Vision:** A conference that provides meaningful opportunities to hear and learn from a multitude of groups, with a focus on elevating those voices that are often under-represented.

This year, FFTA is asking for demographic information in the submission process. This information will not be used as selection criteria. The information will be utilized to help understand if our call for proposals is reaching a diverse audience representative of those served in the sector.

“I thoroughly enjoy attending this conference each year and come back to my agency reenergized and ready to share.”
Selection Criteria

Each proposal will be reviewed by the FFTA Conference Committee with the following criteria in mind:

- Alignment with conference Areas of Focus
- Innovation and originality
- Targeted to an experienced audience (intro- and beginner-level presentations do not qualify)
- Presentation content that can be replicated and adapted. If the proposal is based on programs specific to the presenter’s agency, the proposal (and intended presentation) must indicate how this information can be adapted by other agencies
- Relevance to target audience
- Training and professional experience of presenter
- Formats that are engaging and facilitate attendee participation
- Engaging the voice of those with lived experiences in the presentation or material

Expectations of Presenters

- Presenters agree that peer-to-peer sharing of best practices is of benefit to all and moves our field forward for children and families. Primary Traditional Workshop Presenters and Primary Roundtable Facilitators will receive a complimentary registration for the entire event as a gesture of appreciation for presenting (travel and hotel expenses are not included). Secondary Traditional Workshop Presenters and Primary Storyboard Presenters will receive a discounted registration rate.
- Presenters of traditional workshops must submit PowerPoint Slides, if utilized in the session, and any supplementary handouts to FFTA electronically prior to the conference. Storyboard presenters must submit a PDF of their poster. These will be made available to Conference Participants.
- Using presentation time to sell or market a product, consultant, model or program is prohibited.
- For each Workshop, Roundtable and Storyboard, a “Primary Presenter” must be designated. Primary Presenters will be responsible for disseminating presentation information to Secondary Presenters if there are any.
- Presenters must agree to follow any and all COVID protocols instituted by FFTA and the City of Columbus. Presenters acknowledge that COVID-19 is an evolving challenge, and the protocol may change or be updated as needed. Currently, there are no requirements for testing or vaccination.
- By submitting a workshop proposal for consideration, each applicant acknowledges that they have read and agree to the terms listed above.
Prepare to Submit the Following Information

Primary Presenter:
- Contact information, professional title and agency, licensure, Resumé

Secondary Presenter(s):
- Contact information, professional title and agency, licensure, Resumé

Workshop Information:
- Title (up to 80 characters)
- Short Description (up to 650 characters; to appear in conference brochure)
- Expanded Description (Our reviewers will decide on your proposal based on this expanded description. Include a timed outline, details about the benefits of your workshop, and strategies you will use to engage workshop attendees)
- Learning Objectives (provide 3 concrete, measurable learning objectives, 150 characters each)
- A short description of your experience presenting workshops.
- Most applicable Social Work CEU Track: Clinical, General, Ethics, N/A
- Session Length (60, 90 or 120 minutes)
- Area of Focus
- Audience Level (what level of professional is your workshop appropriate for) Intermediate (5-10 years of experience), Advanced (10-20 years of experience) Senior (21+ years of experience)

Participation beyond your workshop presentation:
- Would you be willing, if asked, to pre-record your session for inclusion in our virtual platform?
- Would you be willing, if asked, to lead a networking lunch and learn session as a follow-up to your session, on a topic similar to the one you are presenting?

“Really appreciated the very solid and robust Presentation-Offerings for each Presentations-Time-Slots throughout the Conference. I liked having so many choices to choose from to be able to zero-in on the exact ones that fit our own particular needs.”