



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FAMILIES

Bringing Lived Experience to Family Support



NFF 34TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Advancing Social Justice, Equity, and Inclusion for Families and Their Children: #Accept, Advocate, Act

Hyatt Regency Chicago | November 9-11, 2023

Proposals
due
May 1st

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



I enjoyed the conference and feel I gained valuable knowledge and resources that I can share in my work and with my family.

FOR THE LAST 34 YEARS,

the National Federation of Families has brought together families, parents, community leaders, providers, partners, and legislators at our Annual Conference. We work to leverage our lived experience and learned solutions for the support and advancement of families whose children of any age experience mental health and/or substance use challenges during their lifetime.



The conference was an amazing experience and I cannot wait for the next one.

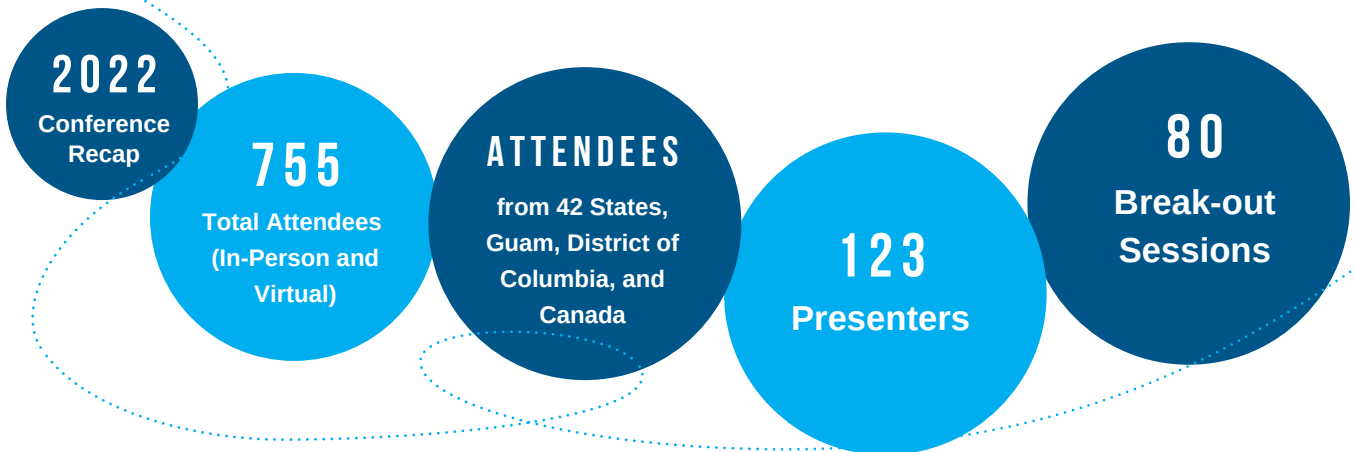
To accomplish this, we welcome a diverse array of voices of those with lived experience for attendees to learn from and alongside.

We invite you to join us in this important work by submitting a proposal to present at the 34th Annual Conference:

Advancing Social Justice, Equity, and Inclusion for Families and Their Children:

#Accept, Advocate, Act

being held November 9-11, 2023, in Chicago.



WE WELCOME PROPOSALS AND CONTENT THAT ALIGN WITH OUR THEME, TRACKS, AND NATIONAL CORE COMPETENCIES.



ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION FOR FAMILIES AND THEIR CHILDREN: #ACCEPT, ADVOCATE, ACT

Area of Focus

Accept

Proposals will explore strategies to enhance the acceptance of families and their children of all ages who are experiencing mental health and/or substance use challenges.



Advocate

Proposals will provide an enhanced understanding of how to effectively advocate for equity, inclusion, and parity in all family-serving systems.



Act

Proposals will tell lived experience stories of moving beyond advocacy into action and accountability for child, adult, and family system transformation.



[Click to learn about our conference](#)



WE WELCOME PROPOSALS AND CONTENT THAT ALIGN WITH OUR THEME, TRACKS, AND NATIONAL CORE COMPETENCIES.

We want to help attendees identify the sessions that are most relevant to them. Sessions and workshops will naturally fit into multiple tracks and likely appeal to a wide variety of attendees.



Justice / Equity / Diversity / Inclusion – JEDI

The principles of JEDI, with an emphasis on families and their children, will be the focus of this track. Topics will include approaches to effectively advocate for equity, inclusion, and parity in child, family, and adult systems. This track will also include presentations that center on social justice issues—equitable rights, access, opportunity, and treatment—in organizational missions and the work they do to support families.



Supporting Families and Their Children Through the Lifespan

Topics in this track will include family engagement, navigating systems, developing authentic partnerships between families and providers, and the importance of understanding and accepting individuals who experience mental health and/or substance use challenges in all settings—homes, schools, community environments, the justice system, health care, and research.



Supporting Families With Co-Occurring Concerns

Proposals in this track should address evidence-based, practice-based, and community-relevant topics that help different groups of individuals understand, discuss, address, and prevent intersecting mental health and substance use challenges. Such groups include families, the workforce that supports families and their children, family-run organizations, and communities.



Lessons From the Field

Presentations in this track will highlight strategies and practices that are proving successful in supporting, educating, and engaging families and their children of all ages. Innovations, collaborations, and lessons learned will inform participants.



Emerging Youth and Young Adult Leaders / Youth Workforce Development

Designing pathways for developing leadership skills and qualities in the next generation is essential. This can include programs, organizations, policies, and/or strategies that center youth voices, integrate and support youth as leaders, and promote sustainability by mentoring youth to take the reins on advocacy work. Presentations demonstrating Youth and Family Peers working in partnership to support families are particularly encouraged.



Workforce Development

The focus of this track is the creation of a strong, healthy, and sustainable workforce to support families and their children. Presentations about career development within the Family Peer Workforce, peer drift, strategies for organizational wellness and sustainability, mentorship, and collaboration with partnering organizations and agencies will be prioritized.



Session Formats

Traditional Informational Sessions

These are 60-minute presentations that should fall under or be closely related to at least one of the identified Areas of Focus.

The primary focus of these sessions is to deliver quick and focused strategies, give brief overviews of a successful program, and/or present promising research and evaluation results.

Focused Workshops

We will offer a limited number of focused three-hour workshops. These are more intensive training sessions for participants that include in-depth overviews of programs that can be adapted by other family-run organizations, sets of skills related to a specific family support strategy, and/or advocacy workshops that train participants to take skills directly into their organizations and communities.

These workshops can result in a certification or pre-certification for attendees.



I really enjoyed our time at the Families Can't Wait Conference. I learned a lot about different ways of thinking about some topics.



The conference was amazing. It was my first time attending, but it was a wonderful experience. The speakers were engaging and enlightening.



CERTIFIED FAMILY PEER SPECIALISTS NATIONAL CORE COMPETENCIES

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COMPETENCIES, VISIT:

[CORE COMPETENCIES | NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FAMILIES \(FFCMH.ORG\)](https://www.ffcmh.org)

Competency

Examples



Wellness and Resiliency

- Holistic Approach to Wellness
- Promoting Resiliency
- Recovery Principles
- Impact of Trauma, Compassion Fatigue, Burnout, and Grief
- Wellness Education
- Parenting Skills
- Self-Care and Community Care Strategies (For Providers and Families)



Effecting Change

- Building Collaborative Partnerships
- Problem-Solving
- Relationship-Building
- Effective Advocacy
- Addressing Prejudice and Discrimination
- Systems Navigation
- Communication and Conflict Resolution Skills
- Interpersonal Skills



Resources and Natural Supports

- Helping Families Identify and Use Natural Supports
- Helping Families Access and Navigate Local Resources
- Identifying Family Strengths, Needs, and Outcomes
- Crisis and Safety Planning
- Family Relationship Building
- System-Partner Relationship Building



Systems Knowledge and Navigation

- Education
- Behavioral Health / Mental Health
- Justice System
- Health Care
- Child Welfare
- Use of Peer Services
- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Supports
- Substance Use
- Social Services
- Legal Rights and Responsibilities in System Supports



Professional Responsibilities

- Basic Work Skills
- Family Peer Career Options
- Knowledge of Policies
- Ethics
- Confidentiality
- Boundaries
- Professional Development
- Demonstrating Cultural Humility



REVIEW & SELECTION CRITERIA

The process to accept workshops is very selective. There are a limited number of slots available, and the final decision is at the discretion of NFF. Each proposal will be reviewed with the following criteria in mind:

Is there alignment with the conference theme?

Advancing Social Justice, Equity, and Inclusion for Families and Their Children: **#Accept, Advocate, Act**

Does the proposal fit within one or more of the conference areas of focus?

- Accept
- Advocate
- Act

Does the proposal address one of the competencies for Certified Family Peer Specialists (CFPS)?

- Wellness and Resiliency
- Effecting Change
- Resources and Natural Supports
- Systems Knowledge and Navigation
- Professional Responsibilities

Does the presentation fit in one or more of the identified tracks for the conference?

- Justice / Equity / Diversity / Inclusion – JEDI
- Supporting Families and Their Children Through the Lifespan
- Supporting Families with Co-Occurring Concerns
- Lessons From the Field
- Emerging Youth and Young Adult Leaders / Youth Workforce Development
- Workforce Development



Does the presentation contain 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.

Lived Experience

Is the voice of lived experience engaged in the presentation?

Presentation

- How will this presentation be interactive, thought-provoking, and action-oriented?
 - Does the presentation have clear and easy-to-understand learning objectives?
-

Content

Will the content be compelling and interesting to our audience?

Presenter

- Does the presenter have relevant knowledge, experience, and expertise on the topic?
- Does the presenter have previous presentation experience?
- Ensure that presenters and session content include diverse experience, perspectives, and points of view.

**Proposals
are due
May 1st**





Presenter Expectations

As a speaker representing NFF, you agree to be respectful of all attendees, speakers, volunteers, organizers, and hotel staff.

Workshops may be livestreamed to a virtual audience. Presentation format should accommodate and engage both virtual and in-person attendees. Speakers will need to stay in view of the camera and on-microphone for the duration of their presentations. Speakers are required to attend a virtual meeting where NFF staff will review the audio/visual and presentation suggestions. This will be offered at multiple times for your convenience.

By submitting a proposal for consideration, you agree that if selected, you will be available to speak at any time during November 9th through the 11th.

Presenter Deadlines and Information

Presenters are required to upload related resources (for example, documents, PowerPoints, or links) into our conference platform prior to their presentation. These resources provide support for the presentation and are valuable information for participants beyond the session.

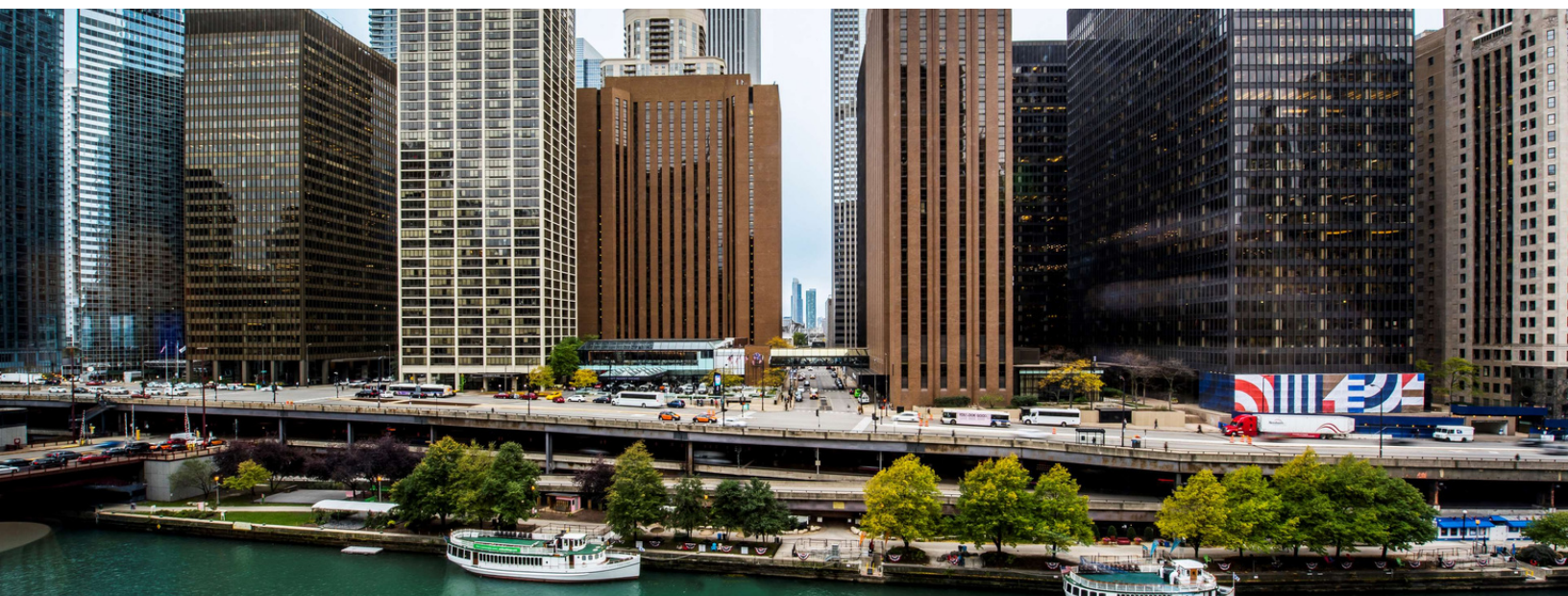
- Final updates, handouts, and PowerPoints must be uploaded by **October 20th**.
- All presenters must be registered and have paid their conference fee by **July 14th**.

Note: Information about how to access Whova will be sent to speakers once selected. A Whova 101 Session will be available if you have difficulty prior to the due date.

The agenda for the conference is built after all presenters are registered. Any presenter not registered will not be included in the conference agenda.

By submitting a proposal for consideration, each applicant acknowledges that they have read and agree to the terms listed above.

I think the conference went very well and greatly enjoyed it, and I learned a lot of information I will use in the future to help support families and their children.



What to Expect When You Submit a Proposal

Acknowledgment

Upon receipt of your submission, you will receive an email confirmation.

Notification

All applicants will be notified about the status of their submission by **May 15th**.

Accepted Proposals

All accepted presenters are responsible for paying their registration fee by **July 14th**. All workshop presenters are responsible for conference registration fee, all travel-related expenses, including transportation and hotel accommodations. Do not submit a proposal if you cannot accept responsibility for travel-related expenses.

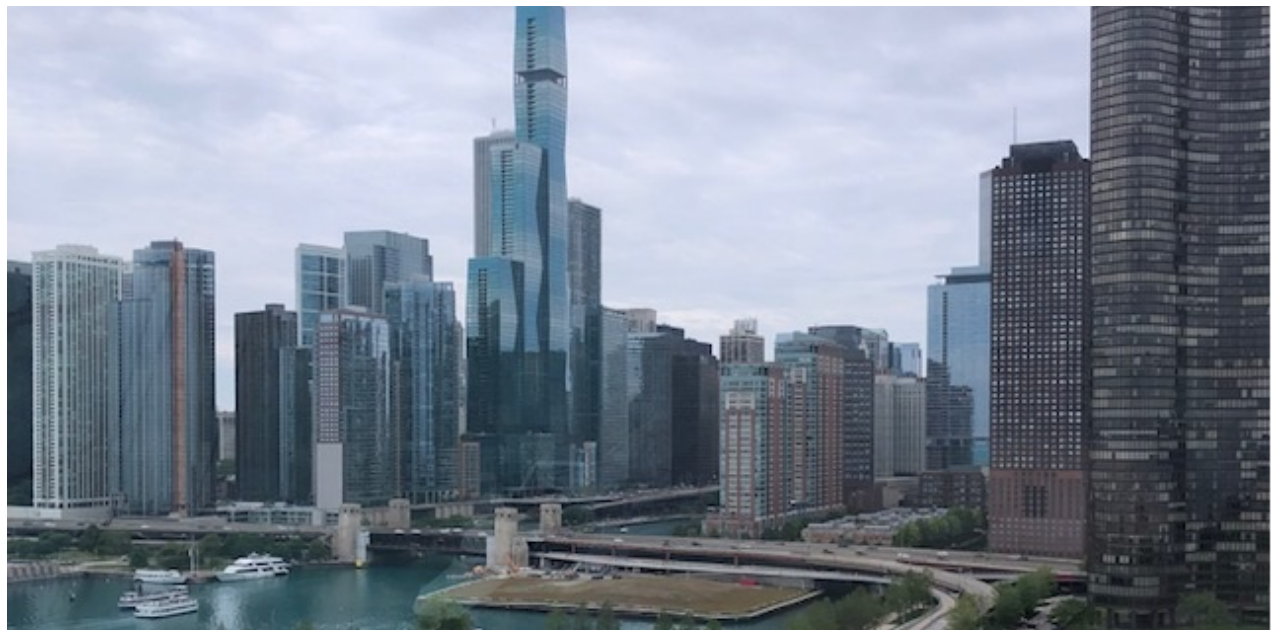
Hotel

Speakers will have access to NFF's room block at the Hyatt Downtown Chicago at a discounted rate of \$209. This price does not include taxes. The group rate is available for three days pre/post-event as well. Book early to get a room in this limited block. Guests will use the code **G-LFFC** to get this special rate. Please use the button below to make your reservations, which already has the code embedded for your ease.

[Book the Hotel](#)

NFF will accept online applications only. The webform is the preferred submission method. If you have trouble completing the form, please email conference@ffcmh.org with questions.

The webform will prompt applicants to submit biographies, session descriptions, and learning objectives with contact information for every speaker. Incomplete applications will NOT be reviewed.



Prepare to Submit the Following Information

For All Presenters:

- Contact information, title and agency, bio, past presentation experience

Presentation Information:

- Title
- Short Description *(This description will be used on our conference agenda to entice conference participants to choose your session.)*
- Expanded Description *(Include details about the benefits of your workshop, and strategies you will use to engage workshop attendees.)*
- Learning Objectives *(Provide two concrete, measurable learning objectives.)*
- A short description of each presenter's experience:
 - *Where have you presented before?*
 - *What is the average size of the audiences to which you have presented?*
- What is the most applicable Area of Focus for your presentation: Accept, Advocate, or Act? Why is it applicable?
- What are the most applicable Tracks?
- How does your presentation connect to our National Core Competencies?
- Session Length



Ready to submit
your proposal?

[Click here](#)

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For questions about proposals, please contact us at: conference@ffcmh.org