



24th National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect
**Doing Things Differently:
Believing in Communities**

24TH NCCAN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The deadline for proposal submissions for the 24th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) has been extended to **Friday August 23rd**.

The Children's Bureau (CB) invites you to submit a proposal for a one-hour workshop session or poster to be presented at the 24th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN). The conference will be held April 1–3, 2025, at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center outside Washington, D.C. All accepted presenters should be prepared to attend the conference in person.

The theme of the 24th NCCAN is *Doing Things Differently: Believing in Communities*, reflecting our belief that communities hold the answers in addressing challenges and promoting family wellbeing. The CB strongly encourages proposals that address work being done in communities and include speakers with lived experience in child welfare.

The CB is committed to making the 24th NCCAN action oriented. Successful proposals will be aimed at adult learners and will focus on innovative approaches or new contributions to knowledge, with specific details to inform and inspire participant thinking and planning. More information on engaging the audience can be found below.

One important factor that the CB will consider when reviewing and selecting proposals is diversity with respect to:

- Social identities (e.g., age, gender, race, ethnicity, ability status, sexual orientation)
- Roles (e.g., practitioners, individuals with lived experience, community members, researchers)
- Organizational affiliations

LEARNING TRACKS

The CB seeks compelling and thought-provoking sessions that reflect diverse backgrounds, communities, and perspectives, including urban, suburban, and rural areas; racially and ethnically diverse populations; and action at the national, state, and local levels to support community-based efforts to promote child and family safety and wellbeing. We expect that all NCCAN sessions will reflect the CB's commitment to building equity in child welfare systems and increasing benefits to children of color, including families who have experienced multigenerational systemic interventions and disproportionate outcomes. We also strongly encourage the inclusion of parents and young adults with lived child welfare experience as partners and session presenters.

We are soliciting proposals in the following five areas:

1. Advance Equity

This track will focus on strategies to address longstanding inequities within child welfare, including deepening our understanding of how race and equity issues feed into the over-identification of neglect; addressing inherent biases in the system, including those affecting LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and people with special needs; addressing the intersection between poverty and neglect; and building workforce capacity to recognize and address race equity issues, including internal bias.

2. Prevent Children from Coming into Foster Care

This track explores new strategies for preventing children from coming into formal care, including new partnerships on the ground and new approaches to working in and with communities; efforts to address poverty; the importance of collaborating with other family-serving systems, such as education, health, housing, and childcare. Especially around neglect, legal supports for families, and support for LGBTQIA2S+ youth.

3. Support for Kinship Caregivers

This track explores how to better support kinship care providers, including best practices for implementing federal regulations on separate licensing standards for relative or kinship foster family homes; building a support system that goes beyond navigation; supporting informal care providers; and managing complex family relationships within the context of kinship care.

4. Ensure Youth Leave Care with Strengthened Relationships, Holistic Supports, and Opportunities

This track explores new strategies to ensure youth leave care with the relationships, supports, and opportunities necessary to succeed in life. It includes youth voice in decision-making; mental health and wellbeing; strategies for relational permanence; and supports during transition.

5. Invest in the Child Welfare Workforce

This track explores strategies focused on the wellbeing of the child welfare workforce, including workplace and organizational culture; diversifying the workforce; recruitment and retention; understanding workforce trends; building staff capacity to advance equity and support underserved communities; and the impact of “the great resignation” on the workforce. There will also be a special focus on non-traditional workforce members, including peer workers and people with lived experience.

SESSION FORMATS

The 24th NCCAN will offer participants the opportunity to engage in discussion with and learn from one another in a variety of formal and informal ways. Through the Call for Proposals, we are soliciting submissions for the following session formats:

Workshops, which increase knowledge and understanding and provide practical applications for a broad range of programmatic, research, and policy issues. Up to three presenters will engage participants in exploration of a single topic during each one-hour session. Recognizing that one hour is not much time, we suggest that more detailed program descriptions, research studies, and other background information be provided as handouts, so that the session can focus on key elements and engagement around application.

Poster Presentations, which offer unique opportunities to present original research, new data, and other pioneering work. The ideal poster presentation will include a significant amount of content in a single visual. Of particular interest are posters featuring innovative and cutting-edge research from child welfare and other related disciplines to help inform discussions around research, policy, and practice. Posters will be available for general viewing throughout the conference; specific presentation times are to be determined.

AUDIENCE

NCCAN is known for its inclusive scope and ability to attract participants representing child welfare professionals, researchers, policy makers, parents and youth with lived experience, volunteers representing a wide variety of disciplines, and family support and other community-based providers. NCCAN represents a unique opportunity for those who are committed to achieving better outcomes for children, youth, and families to come together, gain new knowledge, connect with peers, build shared understanding, and inspire each other's continued dedication to children and families.

ENGAGEMENT

Sessions at the 24th NCCAN will be action-oriented and responsive to what adult learners find most useful. This includes:

- **Application and Engagement.** Adult learners are busy and practical, and they learn by doing. They learn best when:
 - There is immediate application for the learning;
 - They participate actively in the learning process; and
 - They can practice new skills or test new knowledge before leaving the session.
- **Personal Benefit.** Adult learners must be able to see the personal benefit of what they are learning, and how it satisfies a need they have. They are motivated to learn when information presented:
 - Solves or avoids a problem for them; and
 - Leads to professional or personal growth.
- **Learning Styles.** Adult learners approach knowledge acquisition in various ways, including through hands-on activities that provide them the opportunity to use their eyes, ears, and or logic to anchor new skills and knowledge. They learn best when:
 - The learning taps into a mix of learning styles that fit their preferences and stimulate their “multiple intelligences” (e.g., verbal, visual, kinesthetic, interpersonal, logical, intrapersonal); and
 - Multiple means are used to present the material being learned.
- **Experience.** Adult learners come to each learning event with a unique background of knowledge and experience. They are inspired to expand their understanding if the learning:
 - Involves them in sharing what they know;
 - Builds on what they know; and
 - Validates their expertise.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The decision whether to accept a proposal will be based on the extent to which the proposal:

- Aligns with the conference theme and respective learning track
- Describes innovative approaches or new contributions to knowledge
- Provides an opportunity to increase participant knowledge and or improve practice significantly
- Offers concrete steps and examples to inform and inspire participant thinking and planning
- Includes the voices of parents and or young adults with lived experience in child welfare
- Presents a well-articulated session proposal and description that clearly outlines the content to be covered
- Articulates how the stated learning objectives will be achieved **within the one-hour timeframe**
- Demonstrates how key principles of adult learning will be incorporated into the session, and how participants will be actively engaged
- Provides a summary of the research base or any evaluation results (if applicable)

Submitted proposals will be reviewed by individuals with content expertise.

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

- Presenters of accepted proposals must register to participate in the conference. Registration is free.
- Supplemental session materials, such as PowerPoint presentations or other handouts, are expected, in advance, for every selected proposal. These materials will be made available to conference participants through the 24th NCCAN conference platform and mobile app.
- The use of presentation time to sell or market products is prohibited.
- By submitting a proposal for consideration, applicants acknowledge that:
 - They have read and agree to abide by conference participation guidelines.
 - They understand the purpose of conference sessions is to make information and resources available primarily to those working in family support and child abuse and neglect practice, research, and policy, and secondarily, to the general public.
 - They understand that any presentations and handouts provided in conjunction with the session may be posted to the conference event platform, mobile app, or website, and made available to the general public. (More information on handouts will be sent to those presenters whose proposals are accepted.)

SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL

All proposals must be submitted through the [Proposal Submission Portal](#) NO LATER THAN Friday, August 23, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern.

- **Session title** (100 character maximum)
- **Brief session abstract** (1,000 character maximum; to be published in the conference program and mobile app)
- **Session description** (3,000 character maximum; summary of the presentation's substantive content and format)
- **Target audience** (300 character maximum; with suggested level of audience expertise)
- **Two or three learning objectives** (200 character maximum for each objective. Please explain the goals and objectives of your session.)
- **Two or three participant engagement activities** (500 character maximum for each activity. Please explain how the session will be structured to engage attendees, promote interactivity, and reflect principles of adult learning.)
- **Inclusion of those with lived experience** (750 character maximum. Please describe how parents and young adults with lived experience in child welfare will contribute to planning and or presenting this session.)
- **Evaluation/knowledge base** (750 character maximum. Please provide a summary of any research or evaluation results, if applicable.)

All proposals must be submitted through the [Proposal Submission Portal](#) NO LATER THAN Friday, August 23, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern.

You will have to create a username and password with two-factor authentication to access the portal.

Review your proposal submission for accuracy. Please check your confirmation and ensure that all proposal submission details are complete and correct. In particular, please make sure your presentation title and brief session abstract are not cut off due to character limits. Submissions are permitted until the submission deadline of Friday, August 23.

All submissions that meet minimal acceptance requirements (i.e., submitted by the deadline, contain sufficient information about each of the required elements for reviewers to make rating decisions) will be reviewed. Proposals will be scored in consideration of each of the required proposal elements. The CB reserves the right to make recommendations on the final accepted proposal selections to achieve a balanced conference program.

We anticipate that people submitting proposals will be notified in October 2024 as to whether their proposals have been accepted.

