

CWLA is pleased to announce that we are accepting proposal submissions for the 2018 National Conference, *Advancing Excellence in Practice & Policy: Building Resilience in Changing Times*, to be held April 25-28, 2018 in Washington, DC. This conference will highlight how organizations are advancing excellence in child and family services in changing times and working toward creating the next century of service. We seek proposals that feature evidence-informed/evidence-based programs and practices and their related policies and tools that lead to the successful implementation of the *CWLA National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare*.

For the 2018 National Conference, we want to build on learning and examine how organizations are responding to the challenges and opportunities presented by the priorities of the federal administration, and lay the groundwork for transitioning to CWLA's second century of service in 2020. We would like to see proposals that demonstrate the resiliency in organizations, families, and communities in response to changing times.

Proposals should detail the ways that organizations in the United States and globally are responding to changes in funding, policies, and client needs through advocacy, community organizing, and service change. Presentations that show collaborative working relationships and partnerships within or across systems or with youth, families, and communities are especially welcome.

The presentation topic areas are organized within the context of the *National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare*. Emerging issues that fall within these topical areas are of special interest.

## **Presentation Topic Areas**

### **Shared Responsibility and Leadership**

**Successful examples of bringing families, individuals, organizations, and communities together to assure the safety and well-being of children and youth. This includes community-driven accomplishments/successes and collaborative approaches with collective impact.**

### **Engagement and Participation**

**Successful examples of engaging children, youth, and families to promote family success and build community capacity. Special interest in engaging youth, fathers, and the faith-based community, and in projects that use culturally appropriate strategies to engage and respond to children, youth, and families.**

### **Supports and Services**

**Successful strategies for providing services to parents and families to support them in caring for their children and preventing the unnecessary separation of children from their families— and if they must be separated, to help the family safely and quickly reunite as appropriate.**

**Successful strategies to meet children’s needs across the age spectrum— in particular for children who have had traumatic experiences, such as trafficking, mental health issues, drug exposure, homelessness, or abuse and neglect, or experience cultural or gender identity issues.**

**Successful strategies to meet the needs of kinship providers, foster and adoptive parents respond to the complex needs of the children and youth they serve.**

**Successful strategies that bring together multiple systems to address the needs of youth in multiple systems (child welfare and juvenile justice, child welfare and homeless, etc.). This includes community driven accomplishments/successes, collaborative approaches with collective impact.**

**Successful strategies to meet the social service needs of unaccompanied minors and/or cross border child protection issues including, kinship care and adoption.**

### **Quality Improvement**

**Successful strategies to build organizational and community capacity to design and implement supports and services based on evidence and knowledge. A special interest in research and policy/practice partnerships.**

### **Workforce**

**Successful strategies to ensure that the workforce consists of competent, skilled people that are committed to high quality services. A special interest in successful strategies for addressing the impact of secondary traumatic stress, offering leadership development activities, involving people with experience as service recipients, and use of technology to support frontline workers.**

### **Race, Ethnicity and Culture**

**Successful strategies to understand and promote equity; cultural humility; and strong racial, cultural and ethnic identity. Special interest in strategies for preventing separation of LGBTQ children from their families and communities; responding to the new ICWA regulations; serving immigrant children and families; and helping staff, parents and resource families respond to cultural differences in the population.**

### **Funding and Resources**

**Successful strategies to advance the funding and resources principle including: leveraging TANF, Medicaid and other resources on behalf of children in the child welfare system and developing public private partnerships on behalf of meeting the needs of children, youth and families.**

### **Advocacy**

**Successful strategies and policies to promote supports and services that will benefit vulnerable children and youth, their families, and their communities.**

## **Selection Criteria**

- **Relevance to the conference theme, special populations, and organizations and individual in/outside the formal child welfare system**
- **Alignment with topical areas**
- **Engaging format, including use of handouts and PowerPoint presentations**
- **Innovation and originality**
- **Ability to be replicated and adapted within other communities, systems, and practice areas**
- **Explanation and/or examples of procedures and tools for implementation**
- **Demonstrated commitment to cultural humility**
- **Relevance for the target audience**
- **Preference for CWLA members who meet the above criteria and for presentations that include parental partners and youth advocates/presenters.**

## **Requirements**

**Presentation proposals must include a session description, an abstract of the session presentation that could be used for the conference brochure, and a brief biographical summary for each presenter. Proposals must include the outcomes information and level of evidence, tools, and resources.**

**The 2018 conference will provide a variety of learning options for conference attendees. This includes traditional 90-minute workshops, 60-minute learning labs, 30-minute poster sessions, and 3-hour super sessions. The learning labs are designed to share something very specific and should include no more than two presenters. Poster sessions are designed for an overview presentation by one presenter. Please indicate whether you are proposing a super session, workshop, learning lab, or poster session. Workshop proposals will not be combined into super sessions.**

**The selected presenters must agree in writing to conduct their presentations regardless of the number of attendees pre-registered for the session, to provide an electronic copy of any handout materials for their presentation for possible publication/posting post conference on the CWLA website, and to bring with them to their presentation paper copies of handouts in a quantity sufficient for their session participants.**

**We generally receive two to three times more proposals than we are able to accept. The conference planning committee and CWLA staff will use the selection criteria and the goal of having a good mix of presentations based on practice area, geography and experience of presenters.**

**Presenters will be expected to register for the conference at a discounted rate and pay their own expenses.**

**All submissions are due no later than Monday, July 10, 2017.**

1. How did you learn about CWLA's Call for Proposals? Please select from drop down menu.

I learned about this  
from:

Other (please specify)

2. Is your agency a CWLA Member?

Yes

No

\* 3. Presenter Information

**Name:**

**Title:**

**Agency:**

**Address:**

**City**

**State:**

**Zip:**

**Country:**

**Email Address:**

**Phone Number:**

\* 4. Please include a short bio for Presenter.

5. Co-Presenter Information (if applicable)

Name:

Title:

Agency:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Country:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

6. Please include a short bio for Co-Presenter (if applicable).

7. Name, Title, Agency & Email of Additional Presenters (if applicable)

\* 8. What is the proposed title for your conference presentation?

\* 9. Please indicate what type of presentation you are proposing: SUPER SESSION, WORKSHOP, LEARNING LAB, or POSTER SESSION and, if possible, provide a second choice to meet the criteria of an alternate format.

First Choice

Second Choice

\* 1. Please check the Topic Areas under which your presentation submission is to be considered.

- Shared Responsibility and Leadership
- Engagement and Participation
- Supports and Services
- Quality Improvement
- Workforce
- Race, Ethnicity and Culture
- Funding and Resources
- Advocacy

Other (please specify)

2. Please check any Special Populations that apply to your presentation submission.

- Infants and Toddlers
- LGTQB Youth and Families
- Youth and Families affected by HIV/AIDS
- Immigrants, African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos
- Military Families
- Children of Incarcerated Parents
- Rural and Urban Communities

Other (please specify)

\* 3. Please submit a presentation SUMMARY of 100 words or less.

\* 1. Please select your session's level of expertise. How many years of experience should your audience have?

Introductory (0-4 years of experience)

Intermediate (5-10 years)

Advanced (More than 10 years)

Other (please specify)

\* 2. Who is the target audience for your presentation? Please select all that apply:

Front Line Workers

Supervisors

Senior Managers

CEO/Agency Director/Commissioner

Resource Parents

Board Members

Students

Other (please specify)

\* 3. Have you been a presenter at a CWLA national conference in the past three years?

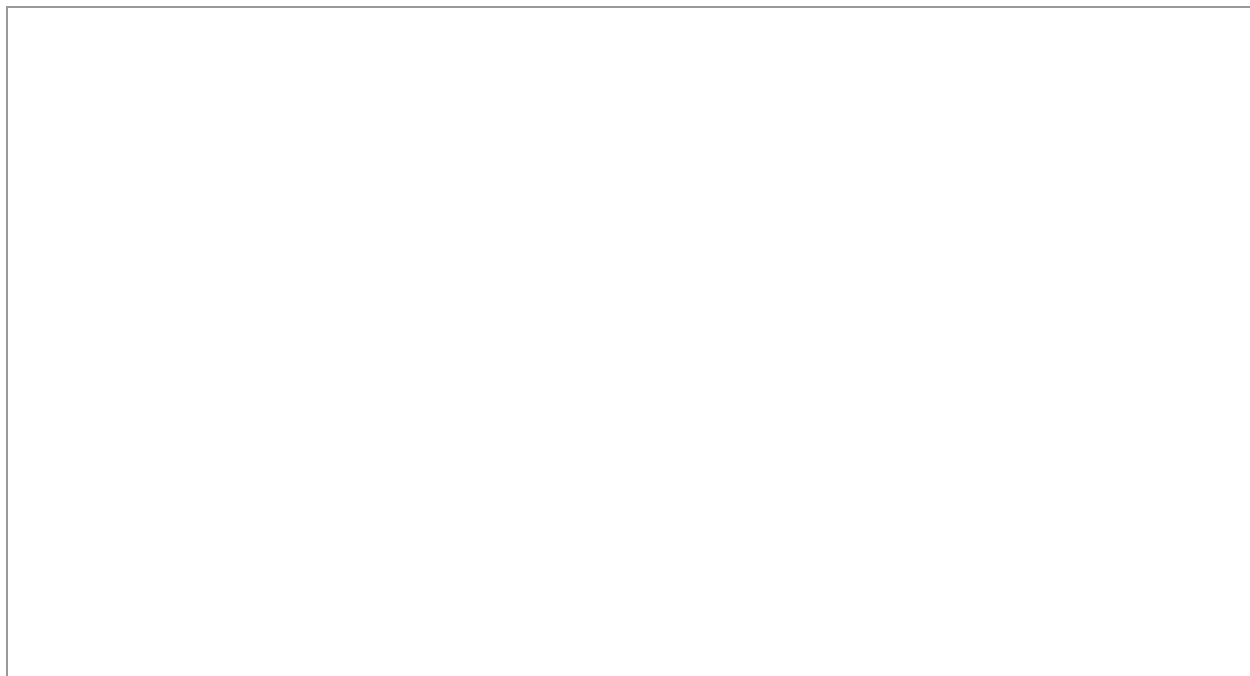
Yes

No

If yes, please state year of presentation and workshop title.



\* 4. Please provide a description of your presentation (2000 characters or less), including objectives and proposed handouts.

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1. Please select what audiovisual equipment you will need for your presentation. Some items may require an additional fee from the Presenter. Additional fees will be quoted when presentation acceptance is advised.

- Flip Chart Package
- Screen Package
- LCD Projector
- TV/DVD
- Wireless Internet Connection
- Laptop
- No Audiovisual equipment needed