



Circles of Life Conference 2020

May 7 and 8, 2020 | Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Presentation Application Instructions

1. What is the Circles of Life Conference?

The Circles of Life Conference is an annual, statewide conference for families of children and youth with disabilities and the professionals who support them. The conference is a **unique** opportunity for participants to develop new skills, learn up to date information and form lasting relationships. The conference includes over 25 sessions on a wide range of topics and evening events for all attendees. Annually between 300 and 400 individuals attend the Circles of Life Conference. In its 36th year, the Circles of Life Conference welcomes new and returning families, youth and providers.

2. What topic areas will the conference address?

This conference covers a broad range of topics, including:

- **Education, including Early Intervention and Early Education**
Inclusion, IDEA, IEPs, IFSPs, Early Intervention/Birth to 3 Program, transition.
- **Family and Self-Care, Health, and Wellness**
Mothers, fathers, siblings, adoptive/foster families, grandparents.
- **Body, Mind and Spirit**
Dealing with stress, spirituality, grief and loss, parent to parent.
- **Transition to Life after High School/Adult Services and Support**
Employment, post-secondary education, housing, independent living, self-care, community connections.
- **Health Care Services**
Medical home, screening, family-centered care, care-coordination, cultural competence, transition to adult care, access to health care.
- **Long-Term Care Services**
Long-term care, Medicaid, private insurance, managed care, model programs.
- **Community**
Recreation, social opportunities, friendships, diversity.
- **Leadership and Advocacy**
Parent leadership, self-determination, public policy & systems change.
- **Other related topic areas**

All presentations should be prepared for an audience of parents, families and professionals. The Circles of Life Conference has a diverse audience with varying levels of expertise regarding presentation topics; translators are also used in some sessions. If a presenter is interested in presenting advanced material, knowledge, or content, please submit an application for two concurrent sessions for beginner and advanced levels.

This conference does NOT accept proposals for workshops about specific disabilities, or workshops that sell or promote products, services or treatments.

3. Who can apply to be a presenter at the conference?

This conference brings together a wide range of attendees from across the state. We encourage applications from **parents, family members, youth and adults with disabilities, professionals, providers, volunteers**, or others with presentations related to the topics above. Presentations that model cooperation and collaboration are encouraged. Examples of past collaborations and topics include: parents and providers as co-presenters; non-profit and government programs; and youth or adults with disabilities and health care professionals.

4. How will the presentations be selected?

To be considered, applications must be received by **October 1, 2019** and will be evaluated by the Circles of Life Conference committee based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to topic areas
- Evidence of collaboration
- Applicability to the entire state (not just one geographic area)
- New topic area or presenters new to the Circles of Life Conference
- Demonstration of creative thinking
- Sharing and best practices
- Clearly stated objectives
- Cultural and linguistic diversity

5. What should applicants and presenters expect?

- A Circles of Life (COL) Conference committee member will notify all applicants about the outcome of the review process by **November 15**.
- Presentations are **90 minutes**, and conference rooms hold up to 75 individuals in a classroom layout. COL will provide a standard AV cart, LCD projector, and screen. *Any additional AV needs or technology should be provided by the presenter, **including bringing your own laptop**.*
- Each presenter should be prepared to bring the following items:
 - A laptop and any accessories needed for the presentation, including speakers and cords, to assure compatibility between technology and available AV resources;
 - Mac users must bring a Mac LCD adaptor cable.
 - An online version of your presentation and handouts for posting to the COL website.
 - Please note any challenges to obtaining necessary equipment or additional presentation AV needs on the presenter application.
- Presenters are responsible for their own travel and lodging if they choose to attend the full conference. All presenters are required to complete a registration form to assist in conference planning and logistics.

6. What else should I know about the Call for Presentations or Circles of Life?

- Presenters (2 per session) will receive **free registration** to the conference. Parent presenters who need assistance with the cost of hotel or travel can contact John Shaw with the Elsie Shaw Scholarship Fund at **(608) 266-7707** or john@elsieshaw.org.
- Presenters are invited to submit multiple applications; however, there is a maximum of two accepted applications per presenter. Presenters may be asked to repeat presentations.
- The Circles of Life Conference has a diverse audience that may have varying level of expertise regarding presentation topics; In addition, translators are used in some sessions. Please clearly indicate the content level on your application.