



Circles of Life Conference 2022

May 12 & 13, 2022 | Holiday Inn - Convention Center, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

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 a keynote, over 25 breakout sessions (90 minutes long) and evening events. Annually between 300 – 400 individuals attend the Circles of Life Conference. In its 37th year, the Circles of Life Conference welcomes new and returning families, youth and providers.

2. What's New This Year?

For the May 2022 conference, the planning committee would like to include sessions that are most helpful for families with younger children and those who have children newly diagnosed with disabilities or special healthcare need. Priority will be given to proposals on topics that impact these families. Proposals on a **wide variety** of other topics will also be selected.

3. What Other Topic Areas Will the Conference Address?

This conference covers a broad range of topics. Past session themes include:

- Education, (Inclusion, IDEA, IEPs, PTP and transition)
- Early Intervention and Early Education (IFSPs, Birth to Three, transition to early childhood programs)
- 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 (employment, post-secondary, housing, residential options)
- Health Care Services (Medical Home, screening, family-centered care, care-coordination)
- Long-Term Care Services (CLTS, CCOP, Family Care)
- Medicaid and private insurance, managed care, model programs
- Community recreation, social opportunities, friendships, diversity
- Leadership and Advocacy
- Other related topic areas

*We recommend that presenters make their sessions **highly interactive** and allow plenty of time for questions and answers. Your audience will be parents, families and professionals with varying levels of understanding of presentation topics; Spanish translators are also used in some sessions. This year, some sessions will be live streamed for those participating in the conference virtually.

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

4. 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.

5. How Will the Presentations be Selected?

To be considered, applications must be received by **October 20, 2021**, and will be evaluated by the Circles of Life Conference planning 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, **especially family members (parents, grandparents, adoptive/foster parents, siblings)**
- Demonstration of creative thinking
- Sharing and best practices
- Clearly stated learning objectives
- Cultural and linguistic diversity

6. What Should Applicants and Presenters Expect?

- UW Stevens Point (the conference facilitators) will notify all applicants about the outcome of the review process by **November 30**.
- Presentations are 90 minutes, and conference rooms hold up to 75 individuals in a classroom layout. The conference will provide a standard AV cart, LCD projector, and screen. *Any additional AV needs or technology should be provided by the presenter.*
- Some sessions may be livestreamed or recorded and available for those who want to participate in the conference virtually. (More details will be available in early 2022.)
- 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 will receive **FREE registration** to the full conference. This is a family-run and organized event and there is no funding available to pay presenters for their time. You are responsible for your own travel and cost of your hotel room.
- A limited number of stipends are available for family presenters to cover the cost of travel and hotel.

If you have any questions about the call for proposal process or the Circles of Life Conference, please contact Lynn Renner at Family Voices of Wisconsin, Lynn@fvofwi.org.