



Circles of Life Conference 2023

May 11 & 12, 2023 | Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Presentation Application Instructions

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 families to develop new skills, learn about resources and form lasting relationships. The conference includes a keynote, over 25 breakout sessions (75 minutes long) and evening events. Annually between 300 – 400 individuals attend the Circles of Life Conference. In its 38th year, the Circles of Life Conference welcomes new and returning families, youth and professionals.

What's New This Year?

For the May 2023 conference, the planning committee would like to include sessions that help families plan for their children and family's future. This can include legal and financial planning, planning for a full, inclusive life in their community or planning for the transition to adulthood. **Proposals on a wide variety of other topics will also be selected.**

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. Some sessions will be live-streamed for those participating in the conference virtually (you will be asked permission to live-stream your session.)

Please Note: This conference does **NOT** accept proposals for workshops about specific disabilities, or workshops that sell or promote products, services, or treatments. You are welcome to register and pay for an exhibit to promote your business or product!

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.

How Will the Presentations be Selected?

To be considered, applications must be received by **October 28, 2022**, 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

What Should Applicants and Presenters Expect?

UW Stevens Point (the conference facilitators) will notify all applicants about the outcome of the review process by **the first week of January 2023**.

Presentations are 75 minutes, and conference rooms hold up to 50 people 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 live-streamed and recorded and available for those who want to participate in the conference virtually. (More details will be available in early 2023.)

Each presenter should be prepared to bring the following items:

- A laptop and any accessories needed for your presentation to assure compatibility between technology and 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.

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. ***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.