



# Circles of Life Conference

## 2024 Presentation Application - Instructions

Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI

May 16 – 17

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.

### Session length: 75 minutes

The 2024 Circles of Life Conference will be its 39<sup>th</sup> year as the annual, statewide conference for families of children and youth with disabilities and the professionals who support them. In 2023, over 700 families and professionals attended Circles of Life. This 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 and evening events.

It is strongly recommended that your 75-minute session is **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 will be used in every session. Some sessions will also be live-streamed for virtual participants. You will be asked permission to live-stream your session if it's selected.

### 2024's Theme

The planning committee would like to include sessions that **help families build their communities**. This includes learning about strategies to build a community, as well as programs and services that support families to create an inclusive community for children, teens or adult family members with a disability. (Proposals on a wide variety of other topics will also be selected.)

### Past Presentation Topics

This conference covers a broad range of topics. Past presentations included:

- Education (inclusion, IDEA, IEPs, PTP, 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)
- Insurance (Medicaid, private insurance, managed care, model programs)
- Community Recreation (social opportunities, friendships, diversity)
- Leadership and Advocacy
- Other Related Topics

## Who Can Apply to Present at the Circles of Life 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. Past collaborations have included 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 27, 2023**, and will be evaluated by the 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, and siblings)
- Demonstration of creative thinking
- Sharing and best practices
- Clearly stated learning objectives
- Cultural and linguistic diversity

## What Should Applicants and Presenters Expect?

The conference planning committee will notify all applicants about the outcome of the review process in early December 2023.

The presentations are 75 minutes. Conference rooms at the Holiday Inn hold up to 50 people, in a classroom layout. The conference will provide a standard AV cart, LCD projector and screen. Any additional AV or technology needs are the responsibility of the presenter.

Each presenter should be prepared with the following items:

- A laptop
- Any accessories needed for your presentation to ensure compatibility between technology and AV resources (e.g., Mac users must bring a Mac LCD adaptor cable.)
- An online version of your presentation
- Handouts for posting to the conference website

Presenters receive **FREE registration** for 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 the 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 proposal process or the Circles of Life Conference, contact Lynn Renner at Family Voices of Wisconsin, [Lynn@fvofwi.org](mailto:Lynn@fvofwi.org).