



Call for Proposals 2013 National Smart Start Conference

Online Submission Only. Deadline: November 9 at 5 PM

The National Smart Start Conference is the nation's largest conference devoted to early education systems and strategies. The conference provides advanced professional development for early education leaders committed to improving the quality of and access to early childhood services for all children ages birth to five. It is intended for professionals who support families, for professionals who support those who work with children, and professionals engaging in early care and education systems change. Although we greatly value our early childhood workforce, content is not designed for those working directly with children.

The 2013 Conference will feature a half-day of preconference sessions followed by three days of workshops and networking opportunities. Workshop focus areas include:

- Early Childhood System Development
- Early Care and Education
- Early Childhood Health
- Family Support and Leadership
- Public Engagement and Advocacy

Conference Dates & Location

The conference will be held April 29 – May 2, 2013 in Greensboro, North Carolina at the Sheraton Four Seasons and Koury Convention Center. Two airports are located nearby - Greensboro/High Point (15 minutes) and Raleigh/Durham (45 minutes) and shopping and restaurants are located within walking distance.

Presenter Registration

We provide a FREE registration to attend the conference to one presenter per workshop (excluding travel or lodging). If additional presenters plan to attend the conference, they will need to register and pay the conference fee. Note that preconference attendance is not included in the complimentary registration unless the presenter also is presenting during the preconference. Presenters must be available to present between April 30th at 8:30 AM and May 2nd at 11:30 AM.

Online Workshop Proposal Submission & Content

All proposals must be submitted online. The online proposal submission system will close at 5 PM on November 9, 2012. No fax or mailed proposals will be considered.

Upon entering the online proposal submission system, you will be asked to submit the information outlined on the following pages.

The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.

office: **1100 Wake Forest Road**
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604



voice: **919-821-7999** fax: **919-821-8050**
web: www.ncsmartstart.org

Note: After submitting your proposal, you will receive a confirmation email. It will include instructions regarding how to make changes to your proposal. Changes may be made until the proposal submission deadline of November 9, 2012.

Proposal Content

- 1. Lead Presenter Information** – This is the Lead Presenter for the workshop. You will be asked to enter the Organization Name, Presenter Name, Address, City, State, ZIP Code, Email Address, Phone Number, and a Summary of Experience. Please make sure you have this information ready before submitting online.
- 2. Proposal Contact** – If the person entering the proposal is not the lead presenter, he/she will need to provide his/her contact information. This person will receive confirmation correspondence in addition to the presenter.
- 3. Co-Presenter Information** – You will be given the opportunity to add up to 4 co-presenters to your session. You will be asked to enter the Organization Name, Presenter Name, Address, City, State, ZIP Code, Email Address, Phone Number, and a Summary of Experience for each co-presenter. Please make sure you have this information ready before submitting online.
- 4. Title of Workshop** – Submit a brief title that will be used in the conference program. The title is limited to 10 words and should be descriptive enough to give conference attendees an idea of what the workshop will address.
- 5. Topic Area** – Select one topic from the list of key areas described below. Workshops that are targeted only to child care providers working directly with children or market a specific product from a company will not be approved.
 - Early Care and Education**
Policies, resources, practices or research that address the quality of young children’s early learning and development experiences. Includes standards; assessment; evidence-based or innovative early childhood program and practitioner supports; workforce development strategies; and Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS).
 - Early Childhood Health**
Policies, resources, practices or research that address young children’s physical and mental health. Includes standards; assessment; evidence-based or innovative early childhood nutrition, physical activity, oral health, or social-emotional development strategies; programs or services to support children with special needs; or other early health-related system and service issues.

- Family Support and Leadership**
Policies, resources, practices or research that address families' capacity to support their young children's healthy development. Includes evidence-based or innovative strategies that help strengthen families, engage them as leaders, and enhance their ability to support their children's well-being.
 - Public Engagement and Advocacy**
Policies, resources, practices or research that address educating and engaging the public and policymakers about the importance of early childhood experiences. Includes proven and innovative strategies to influence public opinion, policy and resource allocation.
 - Early Childhood System Development**
Policies, resources, practices or research that addresses cross-agency planning, leadership, governance, or other efforts to improve effectiveness. Includes proven and innovative strategies to develop leaders; foster cross-sector collaboration; build community or organizational capacity; address financing; facilitate effective implementation of programs or bring them to scale; or measure system, community or population level indicators of positive change in young children and families' well-being.
6. **Workshop Narrative** - Describe your session in 300 words or less.
 7. **Workshop Goals** – Describe what participants will learn as a result of attending your workshop. Please provide up to three learning goals. (Example: Participants will increase their awareness of practical applications for using data and evaluation to improve early childhood programs.)
 8. **Program Description** - Provide a brief session description of 60 words or less to be included in the conference program, if selected. The description should tell attendees what they will learn from your presentation.
 9. **Length of Workshop** – Provide the length of time for your session, 90 minutes or three hours.
 10. **Number of Participants** – Select the number of participants: under 50, 50 to 100, or more than 100.

11. Willingness to Repeat Session – Tell us if you would be willing to provide this workshop more than once to allow more attendees the opportunity to attend. If so, the workshops would likely be scheduled on two separate days.

Workshop Proposal Review Process

Notification of the acceptance of proposals will be sent via email in early December. The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. staff will review all qualifying proposals submitted by the deadline of November 9, 2012.

Notification of Acceptance

Applicants will be notified by email of the committee's decisions in early December. The proposal contact and all conference presenters will receive notification of acceptance or denial. Please note all presenters must make their own travel and lodging arrangements.

For questions please email: conference@smartstart.org