Special Announcement

Call for Workshop Proposals

Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium: *Expanding Knowledge, Changing Practice, Achieving Outcomes*

March 24-25, 2021 | Nashville, Tennessee

The RFK National Resource Center is pleased to invite practitioners, leaders, and experts from across the country to submit workshop proposals for the March 2021 Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium. The RFK National Resource Center is accepting proposals focused on practical and innovative reform efforts that effectively transform youth justice and improve outcomes for children and families.

Ready to submit a proposal? Visit our website to learn more!


Event Description
On March 24-25, 2021, in the heart of Downtown Nashville, the RFK National Resource Center will host a one-of-a-kind Symposium for multi-disciplinary professionals and youth-serving stakeholders seeking to learn, network, and become part of the nationwide movement to effectively transform youth justice and improve outcomes for children and families. The Symposium will feature research-based and evidence-informed practical reforms that can be replicated and applied by participants within their state and local jurisdictions. The event will also emphasize the importance of peer-to-peer learning and collaboration to identify common challenges and solutions that lead to meaningful, sustainable and measurable policy and practice change. The symposium will also offer 30 workshops and learning sessions for participants to obtain a deeper understanding of reform efforts that address the challenges or issues that are most relevant within their jurisdiction or to the population they serve. Click here to learn more about the event!

Symposium Audience
The Symposium’s audience will include: Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Directors; Probation and Court Service Directors; Judges; Social Workers; Probation Officers and Managers; Prosecuting Attorneys; Public Defenders; Guardians Ad Litem and Child Law Attorneys; Educational Staff and Advocates; Behavioral Health Providers and Clinicians; Federal, State, and Local Policy Makers; and, youth, family and system improvement Advocates.

Submitting a Workshop Proposal

Workshop and Presenter Criteria
The RFK National Resource Center is accepting proposals for workshops that will showcase reform efforts and practices that effectively impact the transformation of youth justice, resulting in improved outcomes for children and families. All workshops must feature methods and guidance for replication of the program or practice reform and incorporate participant engagement (e.g., interactive discussion, breakout groups, peer-to-peer learning activities, etc.). All workshop sessions will be a maximum of 90 minutes.

The RFK National Resource Center emphasizes the importance of peer-to-peer learning and diversity. We especially encourage workshops to be presented by individuals with on-the-ground experience, diverse backgrounds, and/or who are reflective of the constituencies they serve. We invite the submission of workshop proposals on all critical issues impacting juvenile justice reform and youth justice transformation, but will give preference to workshops focused on a variety of topics identified on our Call for Workshop Proposals webpage, including:

- Advancing State-Level Juvenile Justice Reform
- Balanced Role of Probation and Community Supervision
- Building Resiliency in System-Involved Youth
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)
- Culture Change – Systemic, Organizational, etc.
- Dispositional Guidelines
- Dual Status Youth Reform
- Girls (Best Practices, Gender-Specific Programs, etc.)
- Graduated Responses – An Effective System of Accountability and Incentives
Proposal Guidelines and Instructions
All proposals must be submitted online. Guidelines and instructions are provided on our Call for Workshop Proposals webpage.

Deadline and Notice of Selection
Proposals must be received by Friday, November 20 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. The Lead Contact will be notified of the final decision by no later than Friday, December 18.

Questions?
Please contact Executive Director John Tuell (jtuell@rfkchildren.org) or Associate Executive Director Kari Harp (kharp@rfkchildren.org) with any questions about the Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium or the call for workshop proposals.

Special Considerations

Compensation & Travel Support
The RFK National Resource Center will waive the symposium registration fee for a maximum of three (3) presenters per workshop (breakfast and lunch will be provided during the event on both March 24 & 25). We regret that we cannot provide travel support, lodging, or honoraria for presenters.

Safety is Our Priority!
In collaboration with the Doubletree Hotel in Downtown Nashville, we are committed to creating a safe and conducive learning environment. We will incorporate practices to promote safety for all attendees and the support staff who make these events possible, while still providing a dynamic networking and learning experience. Please continue to look for updates on what we are doing, both in front of and behind the scenes, to maintain wellness – together.

About Us
Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, led by Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, uses proven models, frameworks, tools, resources and the best available research to serve local, state, and national leaders, practitioners, and youth-serving agencies to improve system performance and outcomes for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. RFK National Resource Center focuses primarily on youth with prior or current involvement in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems (dual status youth), the review and improvement of juvenile probation systems, and the use of a model framework to address the state and national laws and policies governing the exchange and sharing of data, information, and records for youth and families. To learn more about us and how we can serve your jurisdiction, please visit www.rfknrcjj.org.

Every Child Deserves a Childhood
Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps is a private, non-profit licensed child welfare agency providing community-based services, education, foster care and adoption, residential treatment, and juvenile justice programming to individuals and families in crisis. Our programs are focused on helping children and adolescents deal with past hurts, develop self-esteem, and have a chance for a brighter future as contributing members of society. All that we do at RFK Children's Action Corps is based on the belief that every child deserves the chance to lead a happy, healthy, and productive life. For more information and to get involved, visit www.rfkchildren.org.