



Employment First: A Capitol Idea! **APSE 2012 Conference – Arlington, VA**

Call for Presentations

The 23rd Annual National APSE Conference will take place from June 27th to 29th, 2012 in Arlington, Virginia, with a pre-conference day on June 26th. The APSE conference focuses exclusively on employment of people with disabilities in the community, and it is **the** premier event for sharing knowledge, expertise and ideas on the latest and best innovations to make employment for all a reality. We are looking for individuals who can help us make this one of the best conferences!

- APSE is asking for proposals on specific topics within 8 theme tracks. APSE is requesting that individuals interested in presenting or facilitating discussions consider sessions on the specific themes identified.
- The APSE conference is a lively, interactive learning community where attendees challenge and learn from each other. We strongly encourage proposals for sessions that involve open discussion, dialogue, and debate.
- The audience at APSE is diverse, and includes practitioners, individuals with disabilities, family members, program managers and administrators, policymakers, government officials, and university personnel. We are looking for sessions that offer practical information and ideas that appeal to the full range of attendees.

Please note: APSE appreciates the interest of potential presenters and time required to develop a proposal. However, the proposal submission process is a competitive process, and only a limited number of proposals will be accepted. Only those sessions that best meet the needs of conference attendees and overall conference goals will be selected.

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 6, 2012.

Presenter Requirements

- All presentations must support APSE's mission to improve and expand employment in the general workforce by individuals with disabilities.
- Individuals may submit **as lead presenter on only one session**.
- Proposals must be **submitted using the on-line process**. No emailed, paper, or faxed proposals will be accepted.
- As a membership organization focused on advocacy, APSE has limited resources, and is unable to pay for travel or speaker fees for conference presenters.
- **All lead presenters must be members at the time of submission of proposal.** If the session includes co-presenters, they must be APSE members at the time of the conference. If you are not an APSE member, please join online at: www.apse.org or call 301-279-0060.
- Presenters are responsible for bringing and/or covering the costs of audiovisual equipment used during their sessions.

If you have any questions regarding the call for presentations, or need assistance, please email apseconference2012@verizon.net or call 301-279-0060.

Session Formats

APSE is looking for proposals in a variety of session formats, including:

1. Presentations/Lecture – One or more presenters sharing their expertise in a didactic lecture format, with time for audience questions
2. Facilitated Learning – One or more experts on a topic leading a session that uses audience participation and activities as the primary mechanism for sharing information and learning; may use exercises and similar techniques.
3. Open Discussion & Debate – One or more individuals leading a discussion on a “hot topic”. These types of sessions are intended to be primarily group brainstorming and debate. Leaders of these sessions do not necessarily have to be topic experts, but do need to be skilled in leading a discussion in a way that promotes broad audience participation.

All sessions should focus on how audience members can apply the information presented. Use of visual aids and audiovisual materials, as appropriate, is encouraged. Sessions are 60 and 90 minutes long.

Theme Tracks

Proposals are being requested under the eight themes listed below. APSE is particularly interested in sessions on the suggested topic areas listed under each theme, as well as other sessions on best practices within these themes.

- **Job Development**

Share your innovative ideas and state-of-the-art practices for building employer relationships and assisting individuals with disabilities in obtaining integrated employment, or facilitate a discussion on a job development topic. *Suggested topic areas:* a) Creative job development; b) Expanding beyond traditional and typical jobs; c) Strategies for accessing employment in federal, state and local government; d) Use of social networking technology for job development; e) Dealing with on-line applications and testing; f) Developing and maintaining effective employer relationships; g) Job development in rural communities

- **Job Seeker and Employee Topics**

This theme track will feature presentations and discussions of particular interest to job seekers, employees with disabilities, and families. *Suggested topic areas:* a) Understanding service options and choosing a quality service provider; b) Taking charge of your employment services and supports; c) Getting serious about employment: real wages, not just a supplement to benefits; d) Families as partners; e) Spreading the pro-employment message among your peers; f) Impact of employment on benefits

- **Transition from School to Adult Life**

We're looking for presentations and open discussions that will leave audience members with great ideas and strategies on ensuring that young people leave school ready and willing to work. *Suggested topic areas:* a) Developing employment experiences during high school; b) College and other post-secondary options leading to integrated employment options; c) Solving the challenges of transition from school to work; d) Transition practices that lead to real employment outcomes; e) Avoiding the transition to facility-based services trap; f) Collaboration with adult service agencies; g) Transportation

- **Public Policy & Funding**

Give a presentation or lead a discussion on a hot “big picture” topic. *Suggested topic areas:* a) Funding & long term services; b) Effective public policy advocacy; c) Legal and legislative issues; d) Developing pro-employment public policies; e) Systems change to Employment First; e) Inter-agency collaboration; f) Disability rights; g) Organizational change

- **Quality Service Delivery**

Submit a session proposal for a discussion or presentation on the latest and greatest on effective practices for employment success. *Suggested session topic areas:* a) Getting beyond the “part-time job to preserve benefits” trap; b) Responding to the needs of diverse populations; c) Employment success for individuals with significant challenges; d) Accommodations and assistive technology; e) Self-employment; f) Quality post-placement supports; g) Effective job-related supports: benefits management, transportation, etc.; h) Veterans issues; i) Ex-offender issues

- **Leadership & Personal Development**

We’re looking for presentations and discussions on ensuring the organizations and personnel in our field are the best they can be. *Suggested session topic areas:* a) Community employment as a choice: discussion & debate; b) Moving organizations from facility to community-based employment; c) Strengthening the direct service workforce; d) Effective program and staff management; e) Building and maintaining an effective APSE chapter; f) Core employment values and beliefs: how do we integrate them, how do we make sure they aren’t forgotten

- **Mental Health and Employment**

This track will focus on meeting the employment needs of individuals with mental health issues. *Suggested session topic areas:* a) Effective and evidence-based practices leading to employment success; b) Dealing with ambivalence about going to work; c) Creating a pro-employment culture; d) Disclosure of psychiatric disabilities in the workplace; e) Overcoming the employment and mental illness myths; f) Assisting individuals with substance abuse issues

- **Employment for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum**

Given the growing need for services for individuals on the Autism Spectrum, APSE is devoting an entire track to this topic. *Suggested session topic areas:* a) Effective job search and placement support practices for individuals on the Autism Spectrum; b) Management of communication and social issues for employment success; c) The Autism Spectrum – what do we know, and what we need to learn; d) Effective staff practices in assisting individuals on the Autism Spectrum succeed in employment

Submission Instructions

To submit a presentation proposal, please complete the Call for Presentations on-line application that can be accessed at <http://www.apse.org/members/login/login.cfm> (you will need to log-in as a member to submit your application). **All proposals must be submitted using the on-line system.**

To submit your proposal, you will need the following information:

- Theme track
- Format of session
- Time preference (60 or 90 minutes)
- Names and contact information for all presenters, the APSE membership number for the lead presenter, and the APSE membership number for co-presenters (if they are members). Membership numbers can be accessed at: <http://www.apse.org/members/forgotPassword.cfm>
- Biographies for all presenters (maximum 150 words)
- Session title
- A session description (maximum 200 words). If your session is accepted, this description will be used in the conference program to market your session to conference attendees.
- Answers to the following three questions (maximum of 100 words per question):
 1. Why do you feel this session topic is of interest to attendees at the APSE conference?

2. What strategies will you use during this session to engage and interact with the audience?
3. Is there anything additional that it would be helpful for the conference review committee to know about your proposed session?

When you submit your proposal, you will receive an email confirmation containing the information submitted.

If you have questions or need assistance, please email apseconference2012@verizon.net or call 301-279-0060.

The submission deadline is February 6, 2012.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality of the proposed presentation, and the presentations support for APSE's mission and values. The conference program committee will review all proposals, which may include follow-up with interested presenters to further discuss the presentation proposal. Lead presenters will be notified of the committee's decision by March 12, 2012.