



34TH ANNUAL NEW YORK STATE FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION CONFERENCE

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS



The last three years have taught us how very vital it is to have real, meaningful connections with empathetic and compassionate peers who can provide understanding in a safe and welcoming space. Let's sit down and talk about the hard stuff together.

After three long years, the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York returns with the 34th Annual New York State Foster Care and Adoption Conference!

LIVE and in person! PLUS continued virtual delivery in the AFFCNY.Network!

Friday May 5th and Saturday May 6th at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY!

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

The Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York is seeking presenters for the organization's 34th annual conference

For our 2023 New York State Foster Care and Adoption Conference, we invite and encourage those with direct lived experiences such as adopted people, former foster youth, foster parents, birth parents or adoptive parents to submit workshop proposals for our online workshops. Child welfare professionals such as researchers, therapists, innovators, policy makers, historians, educators, etc. are also welcome to submit workshop proposals. The conference's primary audience will be foster, adoptive and kinship parents currently raising children and the professionals who work with them.

We welcome all proposals that generally fit under this year's theme: COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS.

The last three years have taught us how very vital it is to have real and meaningful connections with empathetic and compassionate peers. We've learned that those connections can provide understanding in a safe and welcoming space.

We've begun to learn to sit with what makes us uncomfortable and look deeper towards our own biases and perceptions. We question all that we thought we knew – what we had been taught or told – about the child welfare industrial complex from prevention to surrender and from preservation to termination. We brainstorm for humane and equitable solutions and find accountability for our part. We continue our quest for healing; searching for anything to quell the traumas, provide better educated adoption competent therapists and trauma informed professionals. We seek family solutions that center the child and their lived experiences. We go beyond the fairy tale narrative of rainbows and unicorns. We listen to those with lived experience and lean in so we can better honor their voices and forgive ourselves, in acts of radical self-care, for not knowing before. Together, as a community of support, we will walk this journey, make the connections and be brave enough to have the hard conversations.

Let's sit down and talk about the hard stuff together.

GUIDELINES & INFORMATION:

The 2023 Conference is scheduled to be a hybrid delivery; we will return to a limited IN PERSON event that will have a LIVE VIRTUAL component. Attendees will have their choice of delivery!

Due to the virtual capacity, the LIVE EVENT will have approximately 12 breakout workshop sessions to be offered *in person* on Friday, May 5th and Saturday, May 6th. They will run 60 to 90 minutes in length dependent on the final schedule. Presentations should be interactive, engaging and incorporate audience participation and/or questions. Selected presenters will receive free IN PERSON conference registration for up to two presenters per workshop, but are expected to donate their time, travel and expenses.

Due to the limited IN PERSON scheduling, we will also accept proposals for a continued VIRTUAL experience. The exact expanded schedule to be determined, but we envision offering conference specific workshops in the following weeks. These would be virtual trainings offered to all conference registrants through the Conference Community in the AFFCNY.Network.

Submit Proposals by MONDAY, MARCH 20th, 2023

Use online form at affcny.org/conference

Questions: INFO@AFFCNY.ORG

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