NAACFRC Community-Engaged Research Conference
July 29-30, 2026

Guidelines for Proposal Submission

Presenting at the National African American Child and Family Research Center (NAACFRC) Community-Engaged Research Conference provides an opportunity to build your professional network and share timely, relevant research with a diverse audience. Presenting a content-rich session, individually or as part of a team, is a wonderful way to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas.

NAACFRC's annual conference showcases innovative approaches, lessons learned, and successful collaborations in early care and education and economic mobility research. We welcome proposals from researchers, program staff and practitioners, community members, and people with lived experience. First-time and returning presenters are encouraged to apply.

Use these guidelines and the preview proposal submission form to support the development of your proposal. **You must submit your proposal in the online proposal submission form by April 10 for it to be considered.**

For questions, issues, or accommodation requests, contact: info@naacfrc.org

Important Dates

- **Friday, April 10, 2026** (11:59 p.m. ET): Deadline to submit a proposal in the online submission form
- **May 2026**: Proposal acceptance notifications sent
- **May 31, 2026**: Deadline for presenters to register
- **July 30, 2026**: Conference presentations

Presentation Terms and Conditions

If your proposal is accepted:

- All presenters for your session must confirm participation
- Session titles and abstracts cannot change significantly before the conference
- Slides and any supporting resources must be submitted before the conference (instructions to follow acceptance notifications)
- Presentation materials will be shared with all conference attendees
- Presenters are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses to attend the conference. *Note: Community speakers or people with lived experience (non-academic, non-corporate, or small community-based organization employees) may be eligible to receive travel support and an honorarium.*

Conference Focus: Community-Engaged Research

NAACFRC prioritizes research that is guided by strong relationships with the community. Community-engaged research is defined, "not by the methods used, but the principles that guide the research and the relationships between researchers and the community." Community members may be advisors, partners, or co-leads in the research.

When developing your proposal, consider:
- How does your session reflect community-engaged research with African American children, parents, or families?
- If you have more than two presenters, does your panel include a community member or person with lived experience?

Conference Tracks

The Program Committee has identified program tracks that align with NAACFRC priorities, which includes research that aims to:
- Understand the varied assets, needs, and experiences of African American families and children
- Identify approaches to promote economic well-being
- Enable participation in the social services workforce, e.g., as providers of early care and education
- Address implementation issues and community factors that shape the provision of programs

Proposed presentations may include ongoing or new social, behavioral, and economic program or policy-related research projects, including (but not limited to) secondary analysis of available data sets; research syntheses, pilot and feasibility studies; or refining measurement tools or instruments.

Your proposal should align with one or more of the conference tracks:

- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) / Poverty Alleviation**
  - Research on the effect that services provided under TANF have on factors such as employment, self-sufficiency, child well-being, unmarried births, marriage, poverty, economic mobility, and family stability to help improve those programs and the African American individuals and families they serve.
- **Head Start / Early Head Start**
  - Research on quality improvement, effectiveness, impact, and the needs and experiences of African American children and families and their communities served by Head Start and Early Head Start.
- **Child Care Assistance**
  - Research, demonstrations, or evaluations focused on increasing access to high-quality, safe childcare services for African American children and families.

Presentation Formats

NAACFRC will try to honor your preferred format but may adjust based on space and program balance. All presentations must be given in person.

- **Demonstration / Workshop**
  - Best for: Showcasing an innovative product, service, method, or approach you developed or implemented
  - Length: 75 minutes
  - Presenters: Up to 4
  - Livestreaming: May or may not be livestreamed

- **Presentation**
  - Best for: Sharing research findings, lessons learned, recommendations, or evidence related to a program track
  - Length: 15 or 20 minutes
  - Presenters: Up to 2
  - Livestreaming: Yes

NAACFRC will make every effort to honor your format preference, but we reserve the right to reassign the format based on space and program balance.

What You Will Submit

The submission form will ask for:

- **Presenter names and short biographies**
- **Preferred delivery format**
- **Program track(s)**
- **Session title**
  - Short, clear, engaging, and creative
  - Do not include institution, company, or product names
- **Session abstract**
  - A brief summary of your session
  - Focus on what the session is about and why people should attend
  - Abstracts are what attendees will use to make decisions about which sessions to attend
- **Session takeaways**
  - Clearly state what participants will learn or be able to do after attending
  - Reviewers place strong emphasis on clear, practical takeaways
- **Session description**
  - A fuller explanation of your session plan
  - Include research purpose, key questions, methods, findings, and relevance to the community

See the preview proposal submission form. Note: Use the preview form to guide you as you plan your proposal, **but you must submit your proposal in the online submission form by April 10 for it to be reviewed**.

Selection Process

Proposals are selected to ensure the conference offers a comprehensive, non-promotional, non-commercial, objective, and diverse program. Proposals that clearly describe innovative and responsive community-engaged research will receive the highest priority in the selection process. Attention will be given to diversity of institutions/organizations, presenters, and geographic locations.

The identity of proposal submitters and proposed presenters will be hidden from reviewers to ensure fairness.

Reviewers look for:

- **Relevance:** Importance to African American child and family well-being and alignment with NAACFRC and ACF priorities
- **Clear Outcomes:** Strong alignment between the stated session outcomes and the proposal description
- **Quality:** Clear, accurate, and well-developed proposals as measured by accuracy, clarity, comprehensiveness, and depth of demonstrated understanding of the topic
- **Engagement:** Interactive elements that promote discussion, audience engagement, or facilitate knowledge transfer and development of new ideas