



Call for Sessions

Creating a Healthier Future for Our Kids, Families, and Communities

2011 Annual Meeting on Health Philanthropy

March 2-4, 2011
Los Angeles, California

Looking ahead over the next 10 years, how will philanthropy contribute to shaping a healthier future for our children, families, and communities? Will our work produce measurable improvements in health and well-being? Will it reverse our country's disturbing health trends?

The 2011 Grantmakers In Health (GIH) Annual Meeting on Health Philanthropy will challenge grantmakers to envision a healthier future for children, families, and communities by working on many fronts: creating communities that support healthy choices; promoting healthy behaviors; improving access to physical and behavioral health services; building a safe, equitable, and value-based system of care; and turning knowledge into practice. Health and well-being are shaped by complex and interrelated forces. Knowing this, how can we ensure our communities are healthy places to live? And how do we work collectively to reach this goal? Today, it is more important than ever for grantmakers to take action, create change, and achieve better health for all.

As in 2010, GIH's annual meeting will be a retreat-like gathering. It will provide multiple opportunities for peer-to-peer discussions, and sessions will be designed to encourage direct and open exchange. Session options include focused small-group workshops; candid, facilitated, open conversations; and informative briefings with formal presentations. To encourage interaction and discussion, there will be flexible room set-up and minimal use of audiovisual presentations.

We invite you to help shape the meeting's content by submitting a session proposal. Possible topics that address the meeting theme include:

- Advocacy for policy change
- Creating initiatives and social movements
- Foundation operational issues such as evaluation and communication
- Healthy eating and active living
- Implementation of health reform
- Improving public health and disease prevention
- Social determinants of health

Session proposals should draw on your experiences in a creative way; include perspectives from different types and sizes of foundations, and allow for thoughtful reflection, provocative discussion, and the generation of fresh ideas. We are looking for sessions that engage meeting attendees as active learners and contributors.

Proposals must be received by GIH no later than 5:00 p.m. eastern time on July 8, 2010, by e-mail (callforsessions@gih.org) or fax (202.452.8340).

If you have questions, please contact Kate Treanor at 202.452.8331 or ktreanor@gih.org. We look forward to working with you to make GIH's 2011 annual meeting as interesting, thought provoking, and exciting as possible.

Grantmakers In Health Call for Sessions Proposal Instructions

Over the years, we have learned a lot about what contributes to a successful session at the GIH annual meeting. These instructions will guide the development of your session and will answer a range of questions about logistics, getting your key message across to the audience, and other topics.

What are the parameters for designing my session?

- Sessions last 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- Limit formal presentations, keep AV to a minimum, and leave ample time for discussion.
- Invite an experienced session chair to keep speakers on time and the discussion flowing.
- Reflect the diversity of the field. Consider the racial and ethnic diversity of panelists, and try to include both large and small, and local and national foundations.

Session Format

- **Facilitated:** consider a dynamic opening speaker to frame the issue and pose provocative questions to stimulate an open, thought-provoking discussion.
- **Workshop:** consider engaging speakers to stimulate discussion, and hands-on exercises that include problem solving in response to a scenario, role playing or simulations, or small-group discussions around defined topics.
- **Briefing:** consider a point/counterpoint in which two presenters either offer opposing views or different ways of approaching a single topic, or a talk-show format in which a skilled chair interviews several speakers.

Elements of a Successful Session

- Ask facilitators or speakers to come prepared with just a few key points, questions, or engaging ideas.
- Make sure time is spent relating lessons learned or raising important strategic questions, rather than describing organizations' missions or funded projects.

Who can submit proposals?

We welcome proposals from staff and trustees of grantmaking organizations, affinity groups, funding collaboratives, and regional associations of grantmakers. Preference will be given to organizations that are GIH Funding Partners.

Costs

- Session speakers must pay the GIH 2011 annual meeting registration fee (at the reduced Funding Partner rate).
- Session designers are responsible for the costs associated with travel and accommodations for all speakers in their session who are not affiliated with foundations.
- If cost is an issue, you may wish to consider developing a session with other funders.

What should I submit?

Please use the attached cover sheet when submitting a session proposal. Your proposal should include:

- **Background and context:** why the topic is an important issue for health funders and how it relates to the meeting theme.

- **Program description:** state the session's goals and objectives, techniques for engaging session attendees, and key questions to be answered.
- **Learning objectives:** what will the audience learn at the session and what key messages do you want them to take away.
- **Names and affiliations** of proposed speakers and reasons for selecting them.

What are the criteria for evaluating session proposals?

All proposals will be reviewed by GIH staff and a committee of health grantmakers representing the diversity of the field. Priority will be given to sessions designed to promote open discussion and active learning. Additional criteria the session reviewers will use when evaluating proposals include:

- How well does the session relate to the annual meeting theme?
- Does the session address an important issue in the field of health philanthropy?
- Will speakers reflect rather than report on their work?
- Does the session provide opportunity for active engagement by session attendees?
- Will the session be relevant to and inclusive of a diverse group of grantmakers (by region, foundation size, type of foundation, and race/ethnicity)?
- Will the session be of interest to other annual meeting participants?
- Will the session provide attendees with skills and practical information that can be applied to their work?

When is the deadline and how should I submit my proposal?

Proposals must be received by GIH no later than 5:00 p.m. eastern time on, July 8, 2010.

You may submit proposals via email to callforsessions@gih.org or by fax to 202.452.8340. You will receive a confirmation e-mail within 24 hours acknowledging receipt of your proposal. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact Kate Treanor at 202.452.8331 or ktreanor@gih.org.

Session designers will be notified of the status of their proposal by October 8, 2010.

GIH may request that alterations be made to a proposed session so that it more closely reflects the goals and objectives of the annual meeting.

We look forward to working with you to make GIH's 2011 annual meeting as interesting, thought-provoking, and exciting as possible. If you have questions, please contact Kate Treanor at 202.452.8331 or ktreanor@gih.org.