

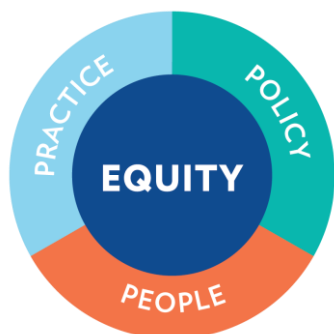
Co-Create the CMF 52nd Annual Conference: Submit a Session Concept During the 2024 Call for Proposals!

We will gather October 7-9, 2024, in Traverse City for the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) 52nd Annual Conference. We hope you will join your Michigan philanthropy peers at this exceptional gathering and invite you to submit a session concept through CMF's Call for Proposals!

ABOUT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For over five decades, the CMF Annual Conference has been the largest gathering of philanthropy in the state. Each year, this event has featured inspiring thought leaders, relevant and robust programming, and deep peer collaboration and networking opportunities.

The Annual Conference serves as a critical gathering point for our field, a time for reflection and for reimagining for the road ahead. The Annual Conference has also marked key steps in our shared equity journey over the past several years, with a clear commitment to and action toward advancing equitable systems change.



Coming together in Traverse City in the fall of 2024, we will engage as a community for conversation, connection and collaboration, grounded in CMF's commitment to embolden and equip members in the relentless pursuit of equitable systems and inclusive diversity, fortify the field through public policy action, foster the growth of current and future philanthropy leaders, and advance exemplary philanthropic practices and field expertise.

2024 Call for Proposals

Staff and trustees from CMF member foundations – as well as philanthropy and nonprofit partners around the country – are invited to design and submit a session for consideration as a program offering relevant to Michigan philanthropy at the upcoming CMF Annual Conference.

TIMELINE

The 2024 Call for Proposals is open through March 4. Proposals will be accepted via our online submission form. Only one proposal is needed per session concept; multiple speakers can be identified on a single form.

Session submissions will be peer-reviewed by the Annual Conference Program Committee. All notifications will be made in May.

SESSION DESIGN

The Annual Conference schedule is designed to feature a variety of robust learning opportunities so that all in our community of philanthropy can identify content relevant to them – across roles, foundation size and type – along with opportunities for cross-sharing and new connections. The Annual Conference Program Committee is seeking dynamic sessions that meet the following goals.

Sessions will:

- Be grounded in a commitment to equity and inclusive diversity. Sessions will help amplify the voices of individuals across philanthropy and from the communities CMF members serve.
- Feature presenters who are diverse in their backgrounds, lived experiences and perspectives and diverse in organization role, region, size and foundation type.
- Offer thought-provoking content with a lens toward the future and strengthening the field, deepening attendees' understanding of the latest data and trends, promising practices, emerging issues, opportunities for personal and professional growth, and beyond.
- Provide a space where presenters will be encouraged to share not only successes from their work and their completed efforts but also candidly share challenges, efforts in progress and early findings.
- Be interactive and engaging, involving participants in the conversation and providing opportunities for interaction with presenters and their fellow participants.
- Feature thought leadership that inspires attendees and ignites our thinking, and will provide attendees with takeaways, tools and techniques to implement in their own work. Sessions may infuse opportunities for specific individual or collective action.
- Create space for attendees to network, form lasting relationships and build trust.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The CMF 52nd Annual Conference will be held in person at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Traverse City, Michigan. We do not anticipate offering any virtual/hybrid programming.

The primary audience for the conference includes executives, staff and trustees of foundations based in Michigan and/or who make grants in Michigan, including community foundations, corporate foundations and giving programs, family foundations, independent foundations and public foundations. In addition to executive directors and trustees, attendee roles include focus on development, finance and operations, human resources, learning and evaluation, program, technology, communications, administrative support and beyond.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SPEAKERS

- We are accepting three session types:
 - Standard Breakout: 75-minute sessions.
 - Workshop: 2-hour sessions.
 - Immersive Experience (Off-site): May be proposed as up to a half-day (3-4 hours).

You will be invited to select a session format on the submission form. The final schedule (including date, time and length of selected sessions) will be developed with input from the Annual Conference Program Committee.

- If your session is accepted, confirmed speakers will be required to attend a virtual speaker orientation on May 20, 2024, at 1 p.m. Speakers who have not yet been confirmed will be required to view the orientation on-demand.
- All speakers are required to register for the conference. We hope all speakers join us for the full conference experience as paid registrants. Speakers planning to attend only their session can choose that option during registration and register at no cost.
- Foundations engaging nonprofit partners or community members in their sessions are encouraged to provide financial support for their participation, including travel reimbursement. As part of CMF's commitment to putting equity at the center of our work and designing an inclusive conference experience, CMF offers limited resources to support the participation of speakers from nonprofit organizations with constrained budgets to ensure cost is not a barrier to engaging in this leadership opportunity. Session designers will receive information on how to request these funds to engage their partners.
- Direct solicitations in presentations and at the conference are not permitted. All accepted speakers will be asked to review and agree to CMF's non-solicitation policy and other policies and protocols, including health and safety, media release and copyright.

SESSION CONTENT / EQUITY AT THE CENTER

As CMF centers our work in equity, the core priorities of Equity, Policy, Practice and People will serve as a guide as we build our 2024 conference programming. During submission of your proposal, you will be asked to address how equity has been centered in your session and identify which of the remaining pillars (Policy, Practice or People) most closely aligns with your session content. Examples are included below to provide clarity and inspire your thinking. [Please note these are examples only.](#) We look forward to welcoming many other session ideas connected to these priority areas.

- **Equity:** CMF seeks to embolden and equip Michigan philanthropy in the relentless pursuit of equitable systems and the embrace of inclusive diversity. All session proposals should be grounded in equity as we strive to address systemic oppression and ensure all people have the opportunity to experience success and well-being. During the CFP submission process, you will be asked to identify the equity implications of your session; you will have the opportunity to identify one additional pillar as listed below.
- **Policy:** CMF seeks to fortify the field through public policy action, and champion the policy leadership of CMF members. Session proposals submitted in this priority area could, for example, share examples of foundation efforts to develop relationships and engage with local policymakers; lift up research about an issue area important to Michigan philanthropy (i.e., health, environment, civic engagement); educate participants on best practices when engaging in advocacy activities; or share a case study on local collaborative mobilization efforts to effect transformative systems change.
- **People:** CMF seeks to foster the growth and development of current and future philanthropy leaders. Session proposals submitted in this priority area could, for example, feature ways that trustees and executives can partner to advance the organization's mission; serve as an interactive peer exchange space for single-staff foundations; highlight approaches to promoting self-care among employees; share examples of how youth are being engaged in the foundation's work or how foundations can create leadership opportunities for emerging practitioners.
- **Practice:** CMF seeks to advance and amplify exemplary philanthropic practices and field expertise. Session proposals submitted in this priority area could, for example, focus on legal, finance and operations content; offer case studies or examples of equity-centered shifts in foundation grantmaking; share program and issue area knowledge; address key matters of governance for trustees; discuss collaborative approaches in impact investing; offer effective learning and evaluation techniques.

TOPIC AREAS

We welcome and anticipate receiving session ideas around a wide range of topics relevant to the field of philanthropy. The following topics have been identified as high-interest areas that traditionally have not been featured in our Call for Proposals responses, and therefore, we are particularly seeking content in these areas. Please note that we continue to welcome content on topics not listed below.

- Advocacy and Public Policy
- Civil Discourse
- Communications/Narrative Change
- Development/Donor Engagement
- Entry Points to Equity Work
- Family Philanthropy
- Finance and Investment
- Grant Craft Basics
- Operations
- Technology and Data
- Trustee Development and Board Governance
- Youth Leadership and Development

Note: We are interested in receiving proposals that resonate for a variety of cross-sections of our Michigan community of philanthropy – across experience levels, roles, regions, foundation type and size, and beyond.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be peer reviewed by members of the CMF Annual Conference Program Committee and other CMF members. Reviewers will be looking for proposals that provide practical tools and takeaways and that are action-oriented. They will be evaluating proposals based on the following criteria:

Overall Impression: The proposal identifies specific examples of trends and issues facing the philanthropic sector that are critical to the field and will be high impact sessions.

Learning Outcomes: Specific and obtainable learning outcomes are clearly identified and strongly connected to the session description. The content will bring high value to the conference.

Format: The format described matches the content and will keep attendees engaged throughout the entire presentation.

Vision Alignment: The proposal aligns with all or most of the “session design” goals. The submission includes clear and specific information describing how the goals will be met.

Equity at the Center: The proposal identifies specific ways that equity has been embedded in the content and is well aligned with one or more framework pillars.

SUBMISSION

Please visit <https://www.michiganfoundations.org/practice/annual-conference> to download a copy of the Call for Proposal questions and to submit your proposal.