



GLOBAL ALLIANCE
for Behavioral Health and Social Justice

**COMING
TOGETHER
FOR ACTION**



Social Justice • Interdisciplinary • Well-Being

SPECIAL CALL FOR ABSTRACTS COVID-19

COVID-19 has disrupted daily life across the globe, and the pandemic has shone a light on many issues with clear implications for behavioral health and social justice. Although everyone has been affected, traditionally marginalized and underserved groups have been disproportionately impacted. Current circumstances have exacerbated issues of food insecurity, economic instability, inequities in health and behavioral health care access, and disparities in housing, education, and employment. Public sector services have been strained, and many nonprofits have had to shift their focus and how they provide services to meet public need.

We are seeking submissions reflecting research, program, practice, or policy work tied to the COVID-19 pandemic, the response to the outbreak, and the implications of system responses for behavioral health and social justice.

We are particularly interested in submissions focused on COVID-19 and:

- Marginalized or traditionally underserved populations
- Social determinants of health / social aspects of health
- Human rights, equity, and social justice
- Behavioral or mental health concerns
- Special topics such as: food security, homelessness, health care access, veteran services, and incarceration / justice reform

Submission due June 15, 2020

together4action.org | Submit your abstract(s) at bit.ly/GA-covid-form

Coming Together for Action Conference

Charlotte, NC, US*

October 7-10, 2020

#together4action2020

* We will have the conference, whether in-person, virtual, or hybrid—it will go on!

All conference presenters and attendees must register for the conference. Presenters are responsible for their own travel, accommodations, and registration expenses.

Submission Components



- **Presentation form**

- **Presentation title**

(15 words maximum)

- **Short abstract**

These 75-word abstracts will be included in the conference program book and the conference program app. They are required for all submissions except poster presentation proposals.

- **Long abstract**

These abstracts will inform the review and proposal evaluation process. Format-specific guidelines are noted for each session / presentation type.

- **Presenters / authors**

Including their affiliations and contact information

- **Learning objectives**

A minimum of two learning objectives must be submitted with each abstract.

- **Themes / topic areas**

Submissions will indicate up to 3 key areas (from the 7 main themes / topic areas from this call for proposal) with which the proposed presentation aligns

- **Policy / practice relevance**

All submissions must include a brief statement of the work's potential implications for policy and/or practice (maximum of 100 words).

- **Qualification statement**

MUST be specific to the abstract and describe presenter's qualification and areas of expertise as it relates to the topic.

- **Additional requests**

E.g., length of session, accessibility, any special accommodations

Presentation Formats



Abstracts should include adequate discussion of background/rationale, method/approach, results/findings/discussion objectives, and conclusions/implications so that reviewers can evaluate the submission's potential contribution to the conference.

- **Poster presentation:** Posters can provide valuable opportunities for one-on-one or small group discussion of a work. Submissions will be considered across all topic areas, and poster sessions will be organized to cluster work with similar themes, populations of focus, or emphases. Poster abstracts are limited to a maximum of 250 words.
- **Individual paper:** Submissions will be considered across all topic areas. Accepted submissions of these traditional presentations will be grouped thematically with one or more other related works in a 50-minute session. Depending upon space and scheduling availability, some individual paper submissions may be accepted as posters. Paper abstracts are limited to a maximum of 250 words.
- **Symposium:** Symposia typically include 3 or 4 papers organized around a central theme, issue, or approach. They also will generally include a chair or moderator as well as a discussant. Symposia can present different elements of a large-scale project, varying approaches to intervention / prevention, diverse perspectives regarding an issue faced by communities or systems, and the like. Symposium submissions should include a 200-word (maximum) abstract that provides an overview of the session and the planned approach as well as abstracts (250 words maximum) for each individual paper. The overall abstract should also include specific information about the presenters' planned approach for engagement of conference participants. At the time of submission, presenters will also indicate a preference for a 50- vs. 75-minute session.
- **Panel discussion:** These 50-minute sessions typically include multiple presenters and a moderator who facilitates discussion. Panels may include one or more brief presentations of ideas or key content; the primary focus is on the presentation of ideas, findings, and/or recommendations by panelists, with these presentations eliciting questions from and responses by conference participants. These sessions typically focus on timely issues in the field as well as needed future directions and recommendations for practice, programming, and policy. Abstracts must also include specific information about the planned strategies for facilitation and the proposed approach for engagement of audience members. Abstracts are limited to a maximum of 250 words.

Selection Criteria

Including but not limited to:

- Alignment of the submission with conference theme and emphases
- Clarity of purpose and goal(s) for proposed presentation
- Relevance / significance of the topic for practice, education/preservice training, research, or policy
- Implications / actionable recommendations for behavioral health practice or policy
- Appropriate methodology / rigor (as relevant)
- Potential contribution to knowledge / applied work
- Evidence of interdisciplinary collaboration
- Overall quality of submission; effective communication regarding planned presentation