

Expanding REACH Enhancing IMPACT Advancing EQUITY



June 25-27, 2019
New Orleans, Louisiana

#QRIS2019

QRIS 2019: Expanding Reach, Enhancing Impact, Advancing Equity Session Request for Proposals Overview

The BUILD Initiative and the QRIS National Learning Network are now accepting session proposals for *QRIS 2019: Expanding Reach, Enhancing Impact, Advancing Equity*. The conference will be held in New Orleans, LA from June 25-27, 2019.

Share your wealth of knowledge and experience! Submit your proposal for the conference by Monday, December 31, 2018.

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Conference Goals

The goals of this conference are to provide QRIS and early childhood systems leaders (at the state, territory, tribal nation, regional, and local levels) with opportunities to:

- Engage with experts and colleagues to hear about the latest research, innovations, and lessons learned about QRIS, early childhood systems building, and continuous quality improvement efforts in early learning.
- Learn what is needed to create a system that is highly inclusive, promotes equity (including the equitable distribution of resources and access), and meets the needs of our multi-racial, multi-lingual, multi-cultural population of young children and families.
- Explore how best to engage families, providers/teachers, and stakeholders to allow their voices to inform the approaches to develop and revise QRIS and early childhood systems to be responsive to their interests and needs.
- Develop personal leadership and communication skills to assure that individuals and their teams do their best work for all children.
- Discover cross-system (e.g., early learning, health, and family engagement and supports) and cross-sector (e.g. child care, preschool, early intervention, early childhood special education, and Head Start) approaches to meeting whole child needs within the context of a QRIS.

Things to Consider for Your Proposal

Each year, we review the evaluation data from the QRIS meeting very carefully. We have created this section based on that feedback.

Content

- Please indicate what is important or innovative about the topic that you want to share and whether you believe you are addressing an issue that needs attention.
- Indicate how your proposal contributes to the theme and goals of the meeting.
- Every topical session should share at least two points of view or two states', territories', and tribal nations' experiences unless you can show that the work in your state or area of expertise warrants a deeper dive than would be possible if leaders from multiple perspectives presented.
- Design your session to promote interactivity. Emphasize discussion – not talking heads.
- Reflect on your topic from a racial equity perspective. Does your approach take racial disparities and structural and institutional barriers to equality into consideration? Does your session explore strategies to creating a high-quality system that is responsive to young children's diverse families, abilities, races, cultures, and languages?
- Does your proposed session include a focus on cross-sector and/or cross-systems approaches?
- We are not looking for sessions that are merely show and tell. Consider strategies for making your topic or example broadly relevant and applicable to other states, territories, and tribal nations.

Presenters

- Diversity of presenters is a high priority. Do your proposed presenters include presenters of color? Is there another aspect of diversity that your presenters represent (e.g., urban/rural, family voice, provider, tribal)? Do you include the voice of the workforce and/or families?

- Diversity of Perspectives – We strongly encourage presentations that offer effective approaches to cross-sector collaboration (e.g., early childhood-early childhood special education, child care-preschool, health-education), within the context of a QRIS.
- We seek sessions that incorporate the experience of multiple states, territories, or tribal nations. But we receive many proposals! You will improve your chance of writing a successful proposal if you incorporate a multi-state, territory, or tribal nation perspective or provide an explanation for why a deep dive into one story would be useful to our audience.
- We offer one free registration per session. All other presenters will need to pay the registration fee to attend. (Persons leading a poster session do not receive a free registration.)

Other Considerations

- NO products should be "sold" or "marketed" as part of your session.
- Interaction is essential to an engaging session; therefore, we recommend no more than three presenters and one moderator per 90-minute or longer session.
- If you need assistance in finding another state, territory, or tribal nation to give your session a multi-state, territory, or tribal nation perspective, please contact us before submitting your RFP.

Target Audience

The QRIS meeting is designed to bring together a range of leaders from all levels including state child care administrators, QRIS administrators, Head Start state and local leaders, state, territory, tribal nation, and community systems leaders, technical assistance providers and coaches, quality improvement specialists, advocates, evaluators and researchers, funders, and higher education faculty.

Session Types

Consider the following as you plan what you'd like to propose. We have limited numbers of each session type, so please think carefully about which type of session best fits your topic.

Pre-Conference Session (3.5-hour format)

These sessions are special learning experiences and must be highly interactive. They will be held on June 25 from 8:30-noon and include an additional cost for participants. Participants sign-up for these sessions in advance so presenters know who will be coming and can tailor sessions to their participants. Preconference sessions are not merely extended workshops. Successful proposals will suggest sessions that explore topics that are particularly relevant at this time, resonate with leaders across the country, or provide a significant challenge to our work. They should provide the opportunity for participants to have a deep learning experience, facilitate a thorough examination of a critical issue or offer a professional or leadership development experience. We will also consider sessions that summarize the work of a community of practice or that launch a community of practice.

Hot Topics Session (60-minute discussion format)

This is a DISCUSSION session—not a presentation format. The sessions should focus on a topic that many leaders are struggling with currently or on an emerging trend/issue or innovative idea. Describe how you would lead a quick, interactive discussion that would be helpful to those attending and draw out their ideas.

Poster Session (60-minute session)

Do you have an innovative or promising practice that you would like to share? Consider putting it into a self-explanatory poster. Posters will be displayed during the entire conference, but we ask that you be present at your poster during the allotted 60-minute session time to share your approach, answer questions, and gather ideas and feedback. During this time, participants can stop by your poster to ask questions and get details from you about your innovative or promising practice. These will NOT be full presentations and there will be no audio-visual equipment. We will provide an easel. Consider a creative way to share your innovation or promising practice. It takes many good ideas and efforts coming together to build a system! Please note, this is NOT an opportunity to sell a product or service.

Intensive Topical Session (2-hour format)

These sessions allow extra time to focus on a specific topic and assure time for discussion. These extended-time slots are limited in number. We seek sessions that require a deep dive and are relevant to many participants.

Topical Breakout Session (90-minute format)

These sessions are the backbone of our agenda. As with all sessions, we are looking for relevant and interesting topics presented in an interactive format. The focus can be on research, policy, and/or practice.

Role-Alike Sessions (60-minute format)

Past participants have requested additional opportunities to talk with their peers in similar positions. Choose this approach, if you would like to lead a discussion with a group of peers on a specific topic. This is NOT a presentation. Successful proposals will suggest a facilitated discussion on a topic for a group of peers in similar roles. The purpose is for role-alikes to have a chance to share what they are struggling with on the topic, lessons learned, successes, etc. These sessions will be held during lunch on June 26.

Consultation Sessions (30-minute time blocks/90 minutes in total for up to three consultations)

If you would like to provide short consultations with individuals and small groups, this is the category you should choose. This is NOT a presentation nor is it an opportunity to sell a product/service. Individuals/groups will sign up in advance to speak with you. You'll be offering your advice/experience to fit their needs. In your proposal, please share the expertise that you are offering.

Topical Categories

One of our goals is to offer an agenda that is broadly interesting and relevant to the myriad roles that leaders play in quality improvement. We anticipate selecting sessions that touch on the following list of topical categories. To help participants select the sessions that are most useful to them, we will ask you to indicate a primary and secondary category on the RFP. We realize that multiple topics may apply, but please select the category that best describes your approach to your topic.

- a. Community-Based Approaches - Innovations at the community level to build integrated and aligned systems designed to support young children and families with opportunities for high-quality early learning and development.
- b. Continuous Quality Improvement and Technical Assistance - Strategies for building ongoing quality improvement into the fabric of your early learning system.

- c. Cross-SECTOR Systems Building - Approaches that integrate pre-K, child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start, public schools, school-age care, etc. into the QRIS.
- d. Cross-SYSTEM Systems-Building - Integrating health, family support, mental health/social-emotional, child welfare, housing, etc. into a whole-child approach to early learning and development for young children.
- e. Data - Designing, collecting and using data and data systems effectively to achieve your goals, improve practices, and drive equitable outcomes.
- f. Equity and Diversity of Race, Culture, and Language - Strategies for assuring children/families have what they need for optimal development including removing barriers to opportunities, and ensuring that resources, barriers and rewards are distributed in ways that remove, and do not exacerbate, inequities.
- g. Evaluation and Research - Latest evaluation and research strategies to inform QRIS-related and systems-building approaches.
- h. Family Engagement/Family Voice - Approaches that emphasize family engagement as the shared responsibility of families, early education programs, schools and communities to actively promote, support, and sustain family well-being, healthy child development, strong family-child relationships and lifelong learning for all. This topic includes incorporating the voice of families into the development of early learning and early childhood systems.
- i. Financing - Innovative financing strategies for early learning.
- j. Inclusion - Strategies for increasing the supply and quality of early learning for children with disabilities; cross-agency collaboration that supports children with disabilities and their families; and tools, practices, and resources that can support state, territory, or tribal nation systems to be more responsive to children of diverse abilities and their families.
- k. Infants and Toddlers - Approaches to providing high-quality early learning, health and development to infants and toddlers and support to their families.
- l. Leadership Development - Initiatives for building and sustaining a diverse cadre of leaders at the program, community, regional, and state, territory, and tribal nation levels.
- m. Policy and Advocacy - Federal, state, territory, tribal nation, or local policy and advocacy work to advance QRIS and early childhood systems building. Focus may be on tackling policy and advocacy in a difficult climate; inserting support for early childhood during legislative or gubernatorial races; impacting regulatory, statutory, or budgetary decisions; advancing new policies to stop problematic policies; and effectively using coalitions of diverse partners. Have you incorporated a focus on equity in your policy and advocacy approaches?
- n. QRIS 101 and Revisioning - Priorities for consideration in the development of QRIS; lessons learned in revisions to QRIS; the need for new strategies because of the revisioning; strategies related to outreach in launching a new or revised QRIS; capacity, infrastructure, and financing. How did an equity lens inform the developmental or revisioning approaches? How did families have a voice in the design or re-design?
- o. Stakeholder Engagement and Communications – Approaches to engaging potential QRIS stakeholders in the development and implementation of quality improvement strategies including families, teachers, directors, service providers, allied professionals in fields such as health or behavioral health, the juvenile justice system, or housing, policymakers, business leaders, school district officials, higher education leaders and community members. How did stakeholder engagement relate to the balance of power?

- p. Workforce/Professional Development/Training - Strategies to improve workforce compensation, create a more diverse workforce, and increase access to higher education opportunities for teachers and directors. Emphasis on professional development that prepares teachers and directors to be more responsive to the racial, cultural and linguistic diversity of the young children and families they serve.
- q. Vulnerable populations – A focus on young children, their families, and their teachers and caregivers. Populations include those who are involved in the child welfare system; experiencing homelessness, hunger and/or trauma; living in under-resourced neighborhoods and/or in families with low-incomes and/or little formal education. Sessions with this focus might explore: how your area is defining vulnerable populations and the impact of that choice; trauma-informed care; racism; the impact of immigration policies, etc. with a focus on what additional resources or modifications were made to achieve better outcomes.

How to Apply

1. Go to <https://webportalapp.com/sp/gris2019> and click Sign Up. Complete the short form.
2. After you’ve logged in, click “Create a Profile to Get Started” and complete the form.
3. Click “Get Started.” An application will appear. Click on the  icon to complete the application.
4. You can submit multiple session applications under one profile.

Additional Assistance

We will have open office hours on the following dates. You can call/log in at any time during these hours to ask your questions. We will have several staff people on the line to respond to your questions.

November 20 from 2-3 PM ET
 303-248-0285, access code 780305#
<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/jbpe0uqdhsww&eom>

December 5 from 2-3 PM Eastern
 303-248-0285, access code 780305#
<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/scf93wpq4ph7&eom>

December 19 from 3-4 PM ET
 303-248-0285, access code 780305#
<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/s6itvck1vuod&eom>

Or email your questions to Jenn Bender at jbender@buildinitiative.org.

*Please note, the BUILD offices are closed from December 24-January 2. We will be unable to respond to your questions during this time.