

National Fund Convening
September 28–29, 2022
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Submit a Workshop Proposal

DUE: April 29, 2022

The seismic effects of the pandemic have put the spotlight on workers and workforce. Job quality, worker voice and power, racial equity, and workplace culture are all part of the national conversation like they never were before. These are conversations worth having, and these are topics that the National Fund for Workforce Solutions has been advancing for years.

This moment calls for new action. The world is different, changing, unstable. We need to shift our priorities, our practices, our mindsets to meet this moment.

As the National Fund marks 15 years of promoting thriving workers, businesses, and communities, we are excited for our 2022 convening, where hundreds of workforce leaders, employers, labor representatives, and funders from across the country come together to advance the learning agenda on critical workforce issues at the forefront of our national conversation. **Are you ready to SHIFT the Future of Workforce?**

We invite your submissions for workshop sessions. Our goal is to elevate the best ideas, whether proven, promising, or totally innovative. We seek workshops that will empower everyone in the room with knowledge they can apply in their communities and have impact across the field.

In addition to selected workshops, SHIFT will feature keynote speakers from national business, community, and government leaders and networking opportunities.

What We're Looking For

We are looking for workshops that align broadly with the National Fund's [four solutions](#) around workers, employers, systems, and co-investment (where investment is about more than just dollars). We cannot achieve racial equity and inclusion in the labor market through demand-driven training alone, and we need to shift toward ideas and approaches that increase opportunities for workers of color and support their retention and advancement. We are looking for proposals that use a racial equity lens and advance equity outcomes in workforce.

In addition, we are particularly interested in proposals that address the following topics:

- **Centering worker voice in program design and delivery, including efforts to support worker power or organizing**
- **Addressing racist or oppressive mindsets or systems**
- **Data and evaluation as tools for advancing equity**
- **Systemic approaches to supporting workers and job seekers (everything from childcare and transportation to trauma-informed practices and mental health support)**
- **Inclusive and equitable hiring practices**
- **Employee ownership and wealth-building**

We seek proposals that encourage **active learning**, introduce or show the application of **practical tools**, lift up **best practices**, dig into **relevant research**, or propose **something totally new**.

Workshop Details

Session length and scope. There will be three rounds of workshops for a total of 18-24 workshops. Each workshop will be approximately 60 minutes in length and accommodate around 50-60 people.

Each workshop should include time for introductions and at least 15-20 minutes for Q&A or group discussion. We encourage you to carefully consider the use of slides and think critically about whether slides or other visuals will enhance or detract from audience participation and learning outcomes of the session.

Presenters and speakers. Across the two-day convening, we seek a diverse slate of presenters in terms of geography, race, gender, ability, sector, organization size, and more. All speakers must commit to participating in their workshop whenever it is scheduled.

Materials. Presenters should grant permission for hard copy and online distribution of supplemental resource materials, and presenters are responsible bringing their own hard copy of materials, if desired. All materials will be made available electronically on the mobile conference app.

All speakers and presenters are responsible for costs associated with attending the convening, including registration, travel, and other costs.

Submission Information

The following information is required for each proposal submission.

1. Workshop title (7-12 words)
2. Narrative description (150-word max)
3. Primary content area
 - Activate Employers to Make Jobs Better
 - Co-Invest for Impact
 - Change Systems for Improved Outcomes
 - Equip Worker for Success
 - Evaluation and Learning
 - Other: _____
4. Explanation of how racial equity and inclusion are embedded in the workshop content (100-word max)
5. Learning outcomes or objectives (150-word max)
6. Target audience (consider employers, practitioners, workers, funders, etc.)
7. Level (foundational, intermediate or advanced)
8. Workshop facilitator (name, title, organization, email)
9. Workshop speakers (name, title, organization, email)
10. Equipment requirements: (flip chart, slide deck, screen, projector, audio, other).
11. Other comments or relevant information (150-word max)

All proposals must be submitted [through this link](#) by April 29, 2022.

Important Dates

- Call for workshops released: April 1, 2022
- Submissions due: April 29, 2022.
- Workshops selected, and presenters notified: June 1, 2022
- Final materials and handouts (to be made available electronically) due: September 1, 2022
- Additional information will be required from presenters, including bios and headshots: date TBD

Questions

Questions about workshop submissions may be directed to Elicia Wilson, COO, ewilson@nationalfund.org.