



reimagining  
out-of-school time



# REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

OCTOBER 22 - 24, 2025  
DALLAS COLLEGE WEST DALLAS CENTER

Dallas Afterschool Conference ® 2025  
Call For Proposals



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## REIMAGINING OUT OF SCHOOL TIME: AMPLIFY VOICES, INFORM PRACTICES, AND MOBILIZE CHANGE



Dallas Afterschool invites educators, leaders, and professionals to submit proposals for the 2025 Dallas Afterschool Conference, taking place October 22–24 at Dallas College West Campus.

This year's theme calls us to reimagine out-of-school time (OST) as a powerful space for innovation, equity, and impact. Through the pillars—**Amplify Voices, Inform Practices, and Mobilize Change**—we're seeking sessions that:

- **Amplify Voices** by centering youth perspectives, uplifting underrepresented communities, and encouraging authentic engagement.
- **Inform Practices** with research-based strategies, practical tools, and emerging trends that enhance program quality and professional growth.
- **Mobilize Change** through actionable solutions that inspire leadership and empower attendees to become advocates and changemakers in OST.

We welcome diverse, interactive, and relevant proposals for all levels of OST professionals—from front-line staff to policymakers. Whether your passion is youth development, workforce readiness, early learning, or inclusive practices, your voice matters. **There will be a \$50 fee per presenter.**

Submit your proposal by **Noon on Monday, June 16, 2025**, to [conference@dallasafterschool.org](mailto:conference@dallasafterschool.org) and help shape the future of OST.

# SESSION TYPES

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We are excited to offer three distinct session formats to fit a variety of presentation styles and learning goals:

## **Preferred Session Types:**

- **Lightning Rounds (30 minutes): Ignite Ideas, Inspire Action**
  - Short, focused sessions that introduce innovative concepts, promising practices, or fresh perspectives are ideal for sparking interest and encouraging further exploration.
- **Momentum Talks (45 minutes): Deepening Knowledge, Driving Change**
  - Standard breakout sessions are designed to explore a topic in greater depth. They should offer applicable tools, research, or case studies that inform OST practice.
- **Impact Labs (90 minutes): Engage, Experience, Elevate**
  - Highly interactive, workshop-style sessions that emphasize participant engagement and experiential learning are ideal for presenters incorporating group activities, simulations, or hands-on demonstrations.

# SESSION TRACKS

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Submitters are encouraged to align their sessions with one or more of the following tracks:

## **Exceptional Learners:** Supporting Diverse Needs in OST

- Strategies for working with students with special needs
- Understanding and educating students with diverse learning needs
- Engagement strategies for behavior management, staff motivation, and family involvement

## **Early Learners in OST:** Foundations for Growth

- Age-appropriate programming for 3- and 4-year-olds
- Developmentally aligned curriculum and activities
- Creating enriching environments for early childhood learning in OST

## **Advocacy & Workforce Development:** Shaping the Future of OST

- Collaborating across direct service and professional development teams
- Strategies for advocating for OST programs and policies
- Workforce development insights for educators and OST professionals

## **Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders:** Engaging Older Youth

- Effective engagement and behavior management strategies for older youth
- Building 21st-century skills through purposeful programming
- Promoting service learning and leadership opportunities
- Increasing attendance and participation in non-traditional OST formats.

Presenters are encouraged to select the format that best suits their content and to incorporate interactive elements where possible, regardless of session length.





# IMPORTANT DATES

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## Dates

- **Monday, April 28, 2025** Call for Proposals Opens
- **Monday, June 16, 2025** Proposal Submission Deadline  
(by noon CST)
- **Thursday, July 31, 2025** Notification of Proposal Status
- **Friday, August 22, 2025** Presenter Confirmation Deadline
- **Friday, October 17, 2025** Deadline to Submit Presentation Materials and Tech Requests
- **Wednesday, October 22, 2025** Happy Hour & Registration
- **Thursday, October 23 – Friday, October 24, 2025** Reimagining Out-of-School Time 2025 Conference





# PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

**Deadline: Monday, June 16, 2025, at 12:00 PM (Noon CT)**

Submit to: [conference@dallasafterschool.org](mailto:conference@dallasafterschool.org)

Subject Line: **2025 Conference Proposal – [Your Session Title]**

We invite dynamic, innovative presenters to submit proposals for the 2025 Dallas Afterschool Conference. To be considered, proposals must include all of the following:

## Required Proposal Components:

- **Session Title:** Clear and engaging title that reflects your session's focus.
- **Session Description (150–250 words):** Overview of session content, connection to the conference theme, and key takeaways for attendees.
- **Learning Objectives (3–5):** Specific, measurable outcomes participants will gain.
- **Session Format (choose one):**
  - 30-Min Lightning Rounds: Ignite Ideas, Inspire Action
  - 45-Min Momentum Talks: Deepening Knowledge, Driving Change
  - 90-Min Impact Labs: Engage, Experience, Elevate
- **Session Requirements:** Must include at least one interactive element. Briefly describe engagement strategies or activities.
- **Presenter Info (max 2 per session):** Full Name, Email, Title/Role, 100-word Bio.
- **Organization/Agency Info:** Name, Website, Mailing Address, City/State/ZIP, Phone Number, Day-of Cell Contact.
- **Alignment with “AIM” Theme:** Indicate how your session will Amplify Voices, Inform Practices, or Mobilize Change in OST.
- **Target Audience:** Choose one or more:
  - OST Professionals, Youth Staff, Site Leads, Directors/Managers,
  - Program Providers, Educators, Youth Development Leaders, Policymakers, Other.
- **Special Requirements (if any):** Room setup, accessibility, or supply needs (25 words max).
- **Materials/Equipment Needs:** Each room includes a projector and computer. Indicate if you need a microphone, interactive tools, printed materials, or other items.

**Questions?** Contact the Conference Team at [conference@dallasafterschool.org](mailto:conference@dallasafterschool.org) — we're happy to help! You can also visit: [dallasafterschool.org/events/conference!](https://dallasafterschool.org/events/conference!)

We look forward to receiving your proposal and hope you will join us in **Reimagining Out-of-School Time in 2025!**

