

## Submission Guidelines and Other Important Information 2023 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) National Forum

### Dates and Location

The 2023 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) National Forum will be held on August 29–31, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Virginia (Washington, DC, area).

### Submission Form and Deadline

All proposals must be submitted through this [form](#) and received by May 5, 2023, for consideration in the 2023 agenda.

### Session Details

All breakout sessions at the COSSUP National Forum are allotted a total of 75 minutes each. It is recommended that you divide this time between a 55- to 60-minute presentation period and a valuable 15- to 20-minute question-and-answer engagement opportunity. If accepted, please make sure that your proposed session is designed to fit within this time frame. Please note: your session may be combined with another applicant's if the content and time frame lend to the pairing (i.e., your presentation best fits into a condensed time block). You will be advised of this recommendation during the notification process.

### Evaluation Criteria

Proposed sessions will be evaluated on (but not limited to) the following:

- Relevance to the 2023 COSSUP National Forum audience
- Diversity, quality, and depth of the topic
- Balance and objectiveness of the topic
- Qualifications of the proposed faculty
- The strength of evidence-based data from research or demonstrated results to support the session OR the strength of a highly innovative strategy with promising results
- Intent to provide details on how to implement successful programs for others to replicate
- Vendor- and industry-agnostic submission

### Presentation Terms and Conditions

- Presenters agree to waive any honoraria. Please keep this in mind for budgeting purposes.
- Unfortunately, COSSUP is **unable to provide reimbursement** for costs associated with participation in this event, including travel, per diem, and accommodations. Please keep this in mind for budgeting purposes.

**Eligibility: Vendors and industry representatives may not be primary applicants.** The intent of the COSSUP Forum is to share promising and evidence-based strategies, tools, case studies, and projects

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that are turning the tide of America’s opioid epidemic and can be replicated, in whole or in part, by other communities. Replication should not be dependent on proprietary solutions. Because partnerships with the private sector are critical to many efforts, industry representatives may be part of a team of panelists. However, they are asked to participate in the spirit of the event, and their contributions to sessions should focus on the capabilities and project support that a tool or service provides, not on advancing a brand or product.

- Overarching criteria for session evaluation are as follows:
  - Success and innovation: The session includes evidence-based data from research or demonstrated results OR the session showcases a highly innovative strategy with promising results.
  - Replicability: The intent of the session is to provide details on how to implement a successful program for others to replicate.
  - Nonproprietary solutions

### **General Information**

- Use this [form](#) to submit your proposal.
- Up to four breakout session presenters can be accommodated.
- There is a limit of two proposals per submitter.
- The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m., ET, Friday, May 5, 2023.
- Applicants will be notified via email by May 26, 2023, regarding submission decisions.

### **Guidelines for Submission**

Please be as complete and descriptive as possible to avoid questions during the review round and adhere to formatting guidelines when submitting your proposal, including use of regular sentence formatting (capital letters where necessary, no CAPS LOCK). This ensures a more efficient review process. The following is a comprehensive list of the questions asked in the submission process.

### **Presenter Information**

The following information is needed for each presenter: name, credentials/appellations (JD, PhD, MS, LCSW), job title, company, address, office phone and/or mobile phone, email address, and brief presenter bio (up to 150 words).

- **Session Description**
  - Title
    - Do not use abbreviations in your session title.
  - Session Details
    - Session description (up to 250 words). If accepted, this description will be used for conference materials. Provide text only—no images or tables.
    - In the description, include how your presentation is based on established outcomes, a case study, evidence-based data, or a cutting-edge innovation.
    - Ensure that you highlight how your session is relevant for COSSUP Forum attendees.

- Learning Objectives
  - Three learning objectives, which are statements that clearly describe what the learner will know or be able to do as a result of attending your educational session. These objectives should be observable and measurable.
  - Learning objectives should (1) focus on the learner and (2) contain action verbs that describe measurable behaviors.
    - ❖ Preferable verbs: list, describe, apply, analyze, assess
    - ❖ Verbs to avoid: know, understand, appreciate
- Session Main Strategy Area
  - First responder initiatives: pre-arrest deflection/post-overdose outreach
  - Jail-based interventions
  - Peer recovery support programs
  - State-based recovery initiatives
  - Tribal-focused initiatives
  - Prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP)
  - Other
- Area of Focus (see descriptions below)

## Areas of Focus

The COSSUP Forum Committee is seeking proposals that correspond to the following **Areas of Focus** and **associated strategies**. (Please note that these categories are for the submission process only and do not correspond to actual tracks. Track definitions and the number of tracks will be determined during the planning process.)

- **Promote Public Safety and Support Access to Treatment and Recovery Services in the Criminal Justice System**—Providing access to a comprehensive continuum of substance use and misuse treatment services for individuals with substance use/misuse and co-occurring disorders and strengthening public safety, public health, and behavioral health partnerships to reduce recidivism and criminal justice costs.

### **Associated strategies:**

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first responder models that connect individuals to substance use and misuse treatment and recovery support services.
- Employ the use of alternatives to incarceration programs for nonviolent drug offenders.
- Expand jail-based treatment and effective reentry programs.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Increase access to naloxone.

- **Strengthen the Collection and Sharing of Data Across Systems to Understand and Address the Impact of Illicit Substance Use and Misuse**—Public safety, public health, and behavioral health stakeholders need access to timely and accurate information about the drug environment at the community level to prioritize outreach efforts, assess the impact of local strategies, and monitor the evolving nature of the drug environment.

### **Associated strategies:**

- Develop and disseminate research on opioid, stimulant, and substance use and misuse policies and interventions.

- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.
- Prioritize real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- **Align and Maximize Resources Across Systems and Leverage Multidisciplinary Partnerships and Innovative Collaborations**—The force-multiplying power of partnerships, including with nontraditional partners such as philanthropic organizations, can broaden the reach of their resources and leverage additional resources.

**Associated strategies:**

- Expand models of public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration at the state and local levels.
- Support children and youth affected by the substance use and misuse epidemic.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the substance use and misuse epidemic, including tribal and rural areas.
- **Prevent Illicit Substance Use and Misuse**—A comprehensive approach to the opioid epidemic includes screening and assessing for opioid use disorder across the sequential intercept model and strengthening state PDMPs to facilitate appropriate prescribing and dispensing of controlled pharmaceuticals and identifying drug diversion.

**Associated strategies:**

- Strengthen the nation’s PDMPs.
- Expand public awareness about opioid, stimulant, and substance use and misuse.
- Support prescriber education programs.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance use and misuse.
- Integrate standardized screening practices into the criminal justice system.

## **Review Process**

The COSSUP Forum Committee will review the proposals and evaluate the diversity, quality, and depth of the topics. Final determination as to which sessions will be selected will not occur until all abstracts have been submitted and reviewed. Notification emails will be sent by May 26, 2023.

## **Questions?**

Contact Ben Ekelund at [bekelund@iir.com](mailto:bekelund@iir.com).

We look forward to seeing you in August!