

CSREES Children, Youth, and Families At Risk Conference 2007

CYFAR 2007 CONFERENCE

MAY 1-4

**Hyatt Regency McCormick Place
Chicago, Illinois**

Call for Proposals

for

Workshops, Computer Labs, Poster Sessions, and Program Showcase Exhibits

Key dates

- Deadline for proposals: November 1, 2006
- Presenters notified: December 8, 2006
- Presenters confirm acceptance: December 15, 2006
- Pre-conference: May 1, 2007
- CYFAR 2007 Conference: May 2-4, 2007
- CYFAR Program Showcase: May 3, 2007

Conference information:

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/family/cyfar/announcement.html> - Updated as conference information becomes available.

Conference Sponsors

National 4-H Headquarters, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) of the US Department of Agriculture sponsors the annual CYFAR Conference under the direction of Children Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) National Program Leader, Sharon K. B. Wright, swright@csrees.usda.gov.

About CYFAR 2007

Gerri Peeples, Willene Buffet, Al Zwilling, and Aaron Ebata, University of Illinois, are the Conference Chairs of CYFAR 2007. June Mead and Steve Goggin, Cornell University, and Harry Mangle, University of Connecticut, are the Conference Program Coordinators. Nayda Torres, University of Florida, chairs the Registration and Facilities Committee. The Conference Planning Committee, comprised of university, county, and community CYFAR program staff from across the country, reviews all conference proposals to ensure high quality and relevance to the CYFAR mission.

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CYFAR 2007 is planned for:

- Community and university CYFAR Project Teams from all states and territories
- Collaborators on New Communities Projects and Sustainable Community Projects
- Extension staff and volunteers working with children, youth, and families
- CYFERnet partners
- Extension collaborators:
 - US Army Child and Youth Services Staff
 - US Air Force Family Member Program and Family Advocacy Programs Staff

The CYFAR Program integrates resources of the Land Grant University Cooperative Extension System to develop and deliver educational programs that equip limited resource families and youth who are at risk for not meeting basic human needs, to lead positive, productive, contributing lives. CYFAR 2007 provides an exciting opportunity for Extension staff, collaborators, and volunteers working toward the CYFAR mission, to learn and to share resources with colleagues and collaborators across the nation. The conference brings together the resources of CYFERnet with the community and state Extension faculty who build and sustain effective programs for at risk children and their families.

CYFAR 2007 workshops, poster sessions, and computer labs provide information on research, curricula, needs assessment, coalition building, administration of programs, resource development, diversity, technology and program integration, marketing impact, and evaluation--all within the context of the four CYFAR national program areas: Early Childhood, School-age (K-8), Teens, and Parents/Families. Poster sessions provide a platform to facilitate in-depth discussion with colleagues about current evaluation and research findings. All proposals are reviewed and selected for presentation by a committee of university and county education professionals with expertise in one of these program areas.

The CYFAR 2007 Program Showcase provides an interactive, networking opportunity for Extension professionals and others from across the nation to display their work being conducted through CYFAR on behalf of children, youth, and families at risk. To ensure high quality, all Program Showcase proposals go through the same rigorous review by subject matter experts as do the workshop, poster and computer lab proposals.

The Research Presentations at CYFAR 2007 will feature nationally respected children, youth and family researchers. Research presenters are selected by the CYFAR Conference Planning Committee based on issues pertinent to CYFAR programming.

Interact Sessions are organized roundtable discussions focused on specific topics with relevance to CYFAR programming. Facilitators make brief presentations to set the stage for dialogue about current research, trends and program strategies that address pre-selected Interact topics. Conference participants then have the opportunity to share their insights with others as they explore the issues. Topics and facilitators for the CYFAR 2007 Interact Sessions are solicited by the Interact Committee.

If you are interested in submitting an Interact topic or serving as a facilitator for an Interact, please contact the Interact Committee *directly*:

Janet Edwards, edwardsj@wsu.edu
Robyn Caruso, racaruso@ucdavis.edu

CYFAR 2007 Call For Proposals for Workshops, Computer Labs, Poster Sessions, and Program Showcase Exhibits

The CYFAR 2007 Conference Committee invites Workshop, Poster Session, Computer Lab and Program Showcase proposals for presentation May 2-4, 2007. Individuals and teams with information that can help conference participants reach their CYFAR program and professional development goals are encouraged to submit proposals. Proposals for Workshops, Poster Sessions, Program Showcase Exhibits, or Computer Labs that address issues surrounding the sustainability of community-based programs and institutionalization of work with at-risk audiences are strongly encouraged. Workshop presentations are intended to be interactive, engage participants, and provide useful, research-based, programmatic and evaluation information/tools that participants can apply to their own programs.

All proposals must be aligned with one of the following: EARLY CHILDHOOD, SCHOOL-AGE (K-8), TEENS, PARENT/FAMILY, and COMMUNITY. CYFAR programs expect that:

CHILDREN will have their basic physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs met. Babies will be born healthy.

SCHOOL AGE (K-8) children will demonstrate knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior necessary for fulfilling contributing lives.

TEENS will demonstrate knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behavior necessary for fulfilling, contributing lives.

PARENTS will take primary responsibility for meeting their children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs and provide moral guidance and direction.

FAMILIES will promote positive, productive and contributing lives for all family members.

COMMUNITIES will provide safe, secure environments for families with children.

Format of Presentations

There are four (4) presentation format options. Each has a decidedly different character and requires different preparation. Please give careful thought to the format best suited to your presentation content. Past conference evaluations indicate that participants prefer interactive presentations that provide useful information attendees can apply to their own work. Priority will be given to proposals that engage the participants in active learning. A substantial number of CYFAR 2006 workshops were criticized in evaluations for not actually presenting what was described in the program. If your proposal is accepted for presentation at CYFAR 2007, the expectation is that it will be precisely what you have committed to in this proposal. Proposals will be accepted for:

WORKSHOPS - training sessions (90 minutes in length) for participants to explore new ideas, concepts and approaches to accomplish program outcomes. Workshop should be interactive, engage participants, and provide useful, research-based, programmatic and evaluation information/tools that participants can apply to their own programs. Teams of community partners, youth and adult presenters are encouraged. Workshops will be scheduled each day of the conference (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).

POSTER SESSIONS - training sessions (90 minutes) for participants to explore current evaluation and research results that can be easily summarized in graphic form, such as tables, graphs, charts, pictures. The poster session provides a platform facilitating in-depth discussion with colleagues. Each 90-minute poster session will be will be scheduled each day of the conference (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).

PROGRAM SHOWCASE EXHIBITS - an opportunity for presenters to showcase successful projects or present program, research or evaluation information. Exhibits might include a short abstract, charts, graphs, sample program materials to encourage informal discussion on topics similar to those presented in workshops. Presenters are responsible for bringing and/or shipping their own display boards. Eight foot skirted tables will be provided for display use. Program Showcase presenters will be responsible for their own set-up, staffing, and take-down. The Program Showcase will be held Thursday, May 3, 2007.

COMPUTER LABS - training sessions (90 minutes) for participants to learn new technology skills to accomplish program outcomes. Applicants should submit proposals featuring creative methods for integrating technology into educational programs for children, youth, and families. An on-site computer lab will be available for the duration of the conference to provide an opportunity for hands-on experience with software and Internet sites that have strengthened programs for children, youth, and families. The on-site computer lab will have IBM-compatible computer stations including Windows and Internet connection. Computer labs will be scheduled each day of the conference (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).

Please note: The CYFAR 2007 Conference review teams reserve the right to make recommendations about presentation format (e.g., workshop or poster session) and to ask individuals if they are willing to consider alternative options to their first preference (see Proposal Submission Form).

