



Funding Forward 2020 Session Proposal

Funders for LGBTQ Issues is proud to announce that **Funding Forward 2020** is coming to Chicago March 25-27! The annual gathering of grantmakers committed to LGBTQ issues provides an exciting opportunity for funders to connect, learn, coordinate efforts, and maximize impact.

We are currently accepting session ideas from funders and philanthropic organizations who are **members** of Funders for LGBTQ Issues. Proposals will be reviewed by our **planning committee**. Member foundations and affinity groups are strongly encouraged to partner with one another to pool creativity and expertise and share financial responsibilities of session sponsorship.

Session Criteria

Proposals are your opportunity to suggest a topic, format, and presenters for an engaging session. Priority will be given to ideas that:

- Mobilize philanthropy to improve the lived experience of the broad diversity of LGBTQ people.
- Catalyze increased resources for local and regional advancement of a range of LGBTQ issues.
- Advance racial, economic, and gender justice for all LGBTQ people through an intersectional approach.
- Provide practical recommendations for funders interested in expanding or shifting their grantmaking.

Topics of interest

- LGBTQ communities in Chicago and throughout the Midwest
- Gender justice, feminism, and the leadership of women of color in LGBTQ and intersecting movements
- Immigration and LGBTQ communities
- Aging in queer and trans communities
- Addressing criminalization of LGBTQ people of color
- Gun violence and LGBTQ people
- Responding to current political attacks including Title VII challenges, the rolling back of health care access, and religious exemptions
- LGBTQ youth organizing and activism
- Voting rights, the Census, and other civic engagement issues affecting LGBTQ communities.
- Economic issues affecting LGBTQ people, including employment and economic opportunity as well as housing and homelessness
- Education and school climate issues
- Increasing resources for trans and nonbinary people
- HIV and AIDS in LGBTQ communities
- Safety, security, and mental health of LGBTQ people in the current cultural and political environment
- Intersectional advocacy and movement building
- Addressing underfunding of bisexual, intersex, and asexual communities





Session Formats

Funding Forward seeks to balance informative panels, multimedia presentations, and interactive conversations. We encourage proposals that offer alternatives to the traditional panel structure. Note that plenary sessions will be 1 hour and breakout sessions will be 1.5 hours. All sessions must include a funder speaker. Below are sample session structures. Feel free to propose your own creative structure, whether it be for a plenary or a concurrent breakout session.

	Plenary Session	Open Discussions and Caucuses	Hands-On Workshop
Goal	To inform your colleagues, showcase different approaches to resourcing issues or communities, and generate creative thinking among participants.	To share experiences and make peer connections.	To provide participants with new skills or tools that can be applied to their work.
Structure	These 1 hour sessions typically consist of no more than three dynamic speakers framing issues, sharing stories of their work, showing multimedia clips and/or dialoguing with each other. We strongly encourage creative structures and ways to generate audience participation. All plenaries must be moderated by a funder.	These 1.5 hour concurrent sessions create space for facilitated discussion on issues, strategies, or challenges identified by participants. We suggest that 2-3 presenters frame the topic very briefly and pose generative questions to the group. At least one speaker must be a funder.	These 1.5 hour concurrent sessions are built around small-group discussions or hands-on exercises involving problem solving, role playing, or simulations. Participants leave with practical skills or tools. At least one presenter must be a funder.

Qualities of a Successful Proposal

- ✓ Engaging and interactive, limiting formal presentations, and creatively using alternative formats.
- ✓ Includes multi-disciplinary perspectives from a mix of presenters who are grantmakers, people working in the field, researchers, and others.
- ✓ Amplifies the voices of people of color, people from the Midwest, and trans, intersex, bisexual people, and/or sex workers.
- ✓ Provides practical tools for grantmakers navigating the inherent challenges of philanthropy to better serve our diverse LGBTQ communities.





Planner's Logistical and Financial Responsibilities

All members of Funders for LGBTQ Issues are eligible to submit proposals.

Session sponsors are responsible for covering the financial costs of the session and for collaborating with Funders for LGBTQ Issues to plan the session.

Responsibilities include:

- Covering expenses and making arrangements related to speakers' travel and lodging. Note that Funders for LGBTQ Issues will cover the registration costs of 3 non-funder speakers per plenary and 2 non-funder speakers per concurrent session. The session sponsor will cover the registration cost of any additional approved speakers.
- Covering and coordinating all session related expenses (e.g., translation/interpretation services and any printed materials).
- Inviting and prepping speakers (includes holding at least one conference call with your panel and Funders for LGBTQ Issues staff).
- Informing speakers of Funding Forward non-solicitation policies.

Funders for LGBTQ Issues staff are available to discuss proposal ideas. We encourage you to contact Kristina Wertz at kristina@lgbtfunders.org to talk through your session proposal prior to submission. Once a proposal is accepted, staff and planning committee members will work with you to approve speakers and ensure the session fits well with the entire program.

How to submit a proposal

Please submit a Word document answering the questions below to kristina@lgbtfunders.org by **October 21, 2019**. Final selections will be made by mid-December.





Funding Forward 2020 Session Proposal

1. Session Organizer & Contact Information:

This person must be a funder and will be the main point of contact for the session.

2. Sponsoring Foundation or Affinity Group:

Please review the financial responsibilities of session sponsors on the previous page.

3. Session Title:

This can be a work in progress.

4. Session Type:

See previous page for format descriptions and select one. We ask for more detail below.

- Plenary Session
- Open Discussion or Caucus
- Hands on Workshop
- Other – please provide details

5. Audience:

Is your session most relevant to grantmakers new to LGBTQ funding, those who have significant experience in the field, or both?

6. Please give a short description of your proposed session:

Include the key issues the session will explore, describe why the topic is timely and relevant to LGBTQ funders, and share any background or context you feel is relevant. Please also share the practical things grantmakers will take away from your session.

7. Please list the main objectives of your session:

8. Presenters:

Please give the name and affiliation of your proposed presenters and a brief description of what perspective they bring to the topic. Please limit non-funder speakers to two per plenary or breakout session. While you do not need to have your speakers confirmed, any information you are able to provide will assist the planning committee in their assessment. Funders for LGBTQ Issues will work with you on final approval of your speakers.

9. Alternative Formats:

Share how you will structure your session to be engaging and interactive. Resist the gravitational pull of the panel!

