

# TRACTION

## MNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### 2021 MONTANA NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

#### Request for Session Proposals

September 27-October 1 | Virtual Conference

**Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA)** invites your proposal for our 2021 Annual Conference. This year's conference will be held online, through Zoom and other online platforms. The MNA Annual Conference is the largest nonprofit gathering in the region. In 2020, we welcomed nearly 2,000 nonprofit executives, staff, and board members to our first online conference. This year, we will once again host a virtual Whole Organization Experience that invites entire teams, from front-line staff to board members to learn, network, and explore innovative and creative solutions to serving their communities.

#### Conference Theme | Traction

After a challenging year, nonprofits are finding ways to move forward while rebuilding, re-imagining, and redefining their missions, communities, and selves. When faced with unimaginable obstacles, nonprofit leaders have found opportunities to reframe their assumptions, upgrade their operations, and partner in new and transformative ways. Much has been asked of nonprofits in the past twelve months, and the sector is again leading the way in creating a better Montana for all.

This is no small task. To meet the needs of our future, individuals and organizations must pause in the midst of motion to assess, align, and move forward intentionally. To build the future Montana deserves, we need to return to the foundations of mission work, examine our operations, and invest in our people and partners. We need to build traction. From the thread of the tread to the uncomfortable but necessary presence of friction, traction is about the foundation we build to carry us forward. The 2021 Conference will provide attendees an opportunity to gain traction as individuals, organizations, and communities.

**We are looking for** presenters that deliver exciting, engaging, and content rich sessions built on principles of best practices and effective instruction. With a whole org audience, we are seeking sessions that provide value and learning for entry level staff members, experienced EDs, and board members. Sessions that explore timely topics and/or dimensions of equity and diversity within their topic area are preferred. We are also interested in 201+ level sessions that can provide a deeper level of learning for attendees. Presentations may be general enough for a large audience or developed for a specific job function or level of experience.

The deadline for submitting your proposal is 11:55pm on **Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. You may submit proposals [HERE](#) for breakout sessions. We are working to curate an exceptional experience for our attendees of all backgrounds and experience levels. If you'd like to connect on your workshop proposal prior to submission, please email [srogala@mtnonprofit.org](mailto:srogala@mtnonprofit.org) directly.

**As a Conference presenter, you will:**

- Receive 1:1 support in developing your session outline for our virtual audience.
- Receive a complimentary virtual conference registration.
- Meet, network, and share your expertise with nonprofit professionals who want to learn about your topic.
- Have your name and business affiliation published in conference materials and on MNA's conference website.

**Timeline:**

- Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> | Submission Deadline
- Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> | Sessions Selected + Submitters Notified
- Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> | Conference Registration Opens
- September 27<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup> | 2021 Annual Conference

**Topics of high priority include:**

- Innovation, collaboration, and changes
- Strategy and response to rebuilding after COVID-19
- Managing a flexible, hybrid, or remote workplace
- Board development and governance
- Fundraising and development that explores fundamentals and new challenges
- Financial management
- Human Resources, exploring equity in organizational practices and policies
- Work-life Balance and Wellbeing
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice
- Savvy Communications in an increasingly virtual world

**Please submit your session proposal online:**

<http://bit.ly/mna2021rfp>

**Additional Submission Information on the next page**

**QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions about Montana Nonprofit Association's 2021 Conference or this Request for Session Proposals, please contact Shelby Rogala at [srogala@mtnonprofit.org](mailto:srogala@mtnonprofit.org).

*Thank You!*

Shelby Rogala

Professional and Organizational Development Director



## Overview of Proposal Requirements

Please submit your session proposals online here- <http://bit.ly/mna2021rfp>

*It's recommended that you complete your answers in another document before submitting through the online form. You may submit more than one proposal. If you are interested in connecting with MNA on your workshop or submitting a proposal for a keynote or deep dive session, please contact [srogala@mtnonprofit.org](mailto:srogala@mtnonprofit.org).*

### **Information to prepare prior to submission:**

#### **Presenter Information**

1. Presenter(s) contact information, with a primary point of contact determined.

#### **Session Information**

2. Proposed session title.
3. Have you presented this session or similar sessions in an online format before?
4. Please provide a brief summary description of 150 or less words for conference materials.
5. Three learning objectives. Participants will explore/master/understand/practice the following:
6. Our session slots are 75 minutes in length. What is your preferred length for this session?
  - 30 Minutes
  - 60 Minutes
  - 75 Minutes
  - 90 Minutes or More
7. If we select your session, which of the following times are you available to present:
  - Tuesday, Sept 28 | 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM
  - Wednesday, Sept 29 | 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM
  - Thursday, Sept 30 | 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM
  - Friday, Oct 1 | 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM
8. Which of the below best describe this session?

- Webinar - Little need for interaction between participants.
- Meeting - I'd like to be able to see/hear participants or ask for attendee engagement.
- Pre-Recorded Session with Live Q&A - Content heavy or niche sessions that participants can watch during your session time, with you available for live Q&A during that time.
- Meeting with Breakout Rooms - Attendees will engage with each other in smaller Zoom Rooms.

9. Which guiding principle for nonprofit excellence does this session most relate to?

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| • Governance and Leadership       | • Advocacy and Public Policy                |
| • Planning                        | • Communications                            |
| • Human Resources                 | • Information and Technology                |
| • Financial Management            | • Strategic Alliances                       |
| • Accountability and Transparency | • Evaluation                                |
| • Fundraising                     | • Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice |

### Target Audience

10. Who is your target audience?

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Executive Directors | • Operational Staff |
| • Board Members       | • Development Staff |
| • Program Staff       | • Other             |

11. Is this content geared toward experienced or new nonprofit audiences?

- It is entry level or foundational (101)
- It requires some prior knowledge or experience (201)
- It is niche or targeted and requires significant prior knowledge or experience (301)

### Experience, Philosophy, and References

1. What is your approach to adult learning, and how does that inform your session?
2. MNA is committed to better exploring, understanding, and sharing how diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice impact nonprofit management and missions. How do you approach these topics and incorporate them into your session?
3. Please share at least one reference that can speak to your presentation abilities or content mastery:

