

Greetings,

We seek innovative, high-quality proposals leading to competitive integrated employment (CIE) outcomes for the CSAVR Fall 2023 conference to be held **October 30 – November 1, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency, Savannah, GA.** CSAVR's theme this year is **History Illuminated – Future Unlocked: Celebrating the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Innovating for Tomorrow.** There will be six (6) general sessions and up to twenty-one (21) concurrent sessions at the in-person conference. **Proposals are due by midnight EST, Friday, September 1, 2023.**

If you are interested, please submit your proposal [here](#). Submissions should be submitted via Google document form, and if not accessible for you, please request the pdf version by email to Tonia Ferguson, tferguson@csavr.org. All Session content must be at least 60 - 90 mins.

Proposals should demonstrate modern strategies and practices connected to the conference theme and *show a direct relationship with one of CSAVR's three strategic priorities* as we raise the bar of excellence across the VR field:

- Recruit and retain Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) staff
- Redesign and streamline internal processes
- Increase public awareness of VR services

We encourage proposals to include a State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (SVRA). If you are an SVRA, we would like to encourage you to submit proposals that share your implementation plan for your State Roadmap developed during the Spring 2023 conference to increase outcomes and maximize resources.

The following are thematic areas CSAVR will consider for Fall 2023 Conference topics:

- **Business Engagement** (strategies in developing effective relationships with businesses, learning the needs of businesses, & being intentional while connecting VR counselors to business staff)

- **Individualized Customer/Skills Development** (work based learning opportunities including internships, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and skills-based hiring, and employment ready training)
- **Strategies for hiring, retaining, and training VR Staff** (while creating formal and informal opportunities to support the growth and retention of new and tenured VR professionals)
- **Process Mapping** (strategies for and examples of rapid engagement and transformative customer service delivery)
- **Process Improvement** (SVRA implementation of “Roadmaps” developed during 2023 Spring Conference)
- **Capacity Building** (strategies to build strong partnerships with community providers, while not forgetting collaborations across state/public agencies such as education, workforce, juvenile justice, career and technical education, foster care etc. that lead to effective use of resources and CIE)
- **Public Awareness** (effective techniques to communicate the value of the national program to all stakeholders)
- **Research, Grant Writing, & Training** (tips for writing practical grant proposals and doing research for innovative practices in the VR field)
- **Know Your Partner** (how to leverage and partner with non-traditional partnerships to drive performance improvement including Independent Living Centers)
- **Fiscal Responsibility** (understanding the impact of state policies in order to maximize the fiscal responsibility of the SVRA)
- **Driving Change** (expanding community provider capacity to integrate and leverage partnerships to improve customer service)
- **Advancing Employment Equity** (strategies for engaging marginalized people with disabilities in underserved communities)

- **Organizational Culture** (understand the role that customer-focused Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility initiatives play in the organizational culture)
- **Managing Change** (what tools are available to assist in PreETS service delivery)
- **Peer Learning Communities** (how to start and support affinity groups and communities of practice that build staff capacity and support continuous improvement for the VR program)
- **Engaging Transitioning Youth** (developing an effective plan that empowers youth with disabilities and showcases collaborations and systems change to support postsecondary transition)
- **Legislative Practices** (strategies for career pathways, moving from 14 (c) to competitive integrated employment within the VR program)
- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving** (tools and techniques to facilitate problem-solving and innovative ideas for Disability Innovation Fund Grantees)

Spread the Word. Be Creative!

We encourage proposals from across the spectrum of our professions – State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies, Individuals, Families, Businesses, Customers, University & Training Communities, Advocates, Nonprofits and Private Practitioners. Please email proposals to tferguson@csavr.org if you are submitting by pdf. If you have any questions regarding the Call for Papers, please contact tferguson@csavr.org and thamrick@csavr.org.

The deadline to submit a proposal here is September 1, 2023, at 11:59 pm (EST).

We look forward to receiving your proposals!