

# Justice Begins Early: Empowering Communities Through Innovative Intervention

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2025



## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Provincial HSJCC Conference Planning Committee invites you to submit an abstract for presentation at the 2025 Virtual Conference *Justice Begins Early: Empowering Communities Through Innovative Intervention* taking place on **November 4 and 5, 2025**.

The Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) Network is a dynamic, voluntary collaboration between professionals from across the human services and justice sectors in Ontario. At the Local, Regional and Provincial levels, HSJCCs coordinate resources and plan more effectively for people with complex needs who come into contact with the justice system.

The Provincial HSJCC Conference is the network's premiere educational event – bringing together more than 600 professionals from across the human services and justice sectors to share promising practices, build cross-sector networks and engage in solutions for the people they serve. Attendees benefit from a richly engrossing program that leaves them better equipped and inspired to meet the needs of Ontarians.

The Conference Planning Committee is seeking abstracts from individuals or agencies who can contribute solution-focused knowledge, expertise, innovation and best practices that can enhance, complement or expand services and systems currently in place.

The conference program will reflect a broad range of themes while showcasing work being done within the human service and justice sectors.

### About the Conference

This conference will focus on the critical importance of early identification and intervention for individuals with complex needs within the criminal justice system. With an emphasis on collaborative approaches across the health, human services, justice sectors, and government partners, we will explore innovative strategies to address

the social determinants of health that contribute to justice involvement. We are seeking abstracts that highlight effective models for intervening early to reduce risk factors, improve outcomes, and prevent further criminal justice involvement. By engaging practitioners, policymakers, and individuals with lived experience, we will examine new ways to foster cross-sector partnerships and share knowledge, tools, and best practices that can transform the system and support those at risk before they enter the cycle of justice involvement.

### Streams

- **COMPLEX NEEDS:** Substance use and behavioral dependencies, mental health, brain injuries, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, developmental disabilities, Neurocognitive, dual diagnosis, concurrent disorders.
- **FORENSIC**
- **SPECIALIZED POPULATIONS:** Physical disability populations, older adults, youth, 2SLGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous, and Racialized Communities, people of marginalized genders
- **INNOVATIVE MODELS FOR BETTER COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE:** New/outside the box projects or community partner/collaborations such as: HSJCC Committees, Situation Tables, Mobile Crisis Response Teams, Communities of Practice, social navigator projects, restorative justice.
- **RESILIENCY FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS:** Self-care, loss, Medical Assistance with Dying, Compassion Fatigue/Vicarious Trauma, professional grieving
- **PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE AND PEER SUPPORT:** Community co-design and engaging people with lived and living experience, peer support programs.

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### Submission Information

All submissions will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Relevance to the conference theme
- Clarity and coherence of submission
- Relevance and benefit to participants
- Evidence that submission will engage the participants
- Evidence of participant take-away

### Acceptance as a presenter

Presenters must be paid registrants of the conference. Honoraria will be available for presenters with lived experience.

Presenters will be asked to submit an electronic version of their presentation which will be posted on the virtual platform after the conference. In the virtual format, participants have indicated that having handouts and resources to download are much appreciated.

Presenters will be provided with a designated time to present by the conference committee.

For further information please contact Sherry Sim, Event Manager at [sherry@innovative4you.com](mailto:sherry@innovative4you.com) or by phone at 1-866-655-8548.

**Deadline for abstract submission: April 7th, 2025.**

**[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT](#)**