



PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Share your 2020 vision for the Youth Enterprise, Employment and Livelihoods Development Field

What is your vision for this field in 2020?

How are your initiatives and ideas turning that vision into reality for young people to have greater access to entrepreneurial and employment opportunities?

Making Cents International invites you engage in this participatory learning event by submitting a proposal to present at the Global Youth Enterprise Conference, which will take place September 29-30, 2009 in Washington, DC.

OVERVIEW

Deadline: All session proposals must be received by email, mail or fax before **April 24, 2009**.

Who should submit: Practitioners, policymakers, funders, educators, youth leaders, members of the private sector, and other professionals involved in youth enterprise, employment, and livelihoods development.

Benefits for presenters: The organizations whose proposals are selected will become presenters at the conference. They will receive recognition in electronic and print marketing materials; be invited to disseminate information on their programs and projects at their sessions; enjoy visibility and increased credibility within the industry; be able to participate in unique networking opportunities; and contribute directly to the growth and development of the youth enterprise, employment, and livelihoods development field. The content of the sessions will be recorded, synthesized and shared with the broader

youth enterprise, employment, and livelihoods development community after the conference via a publication disseminated to over 20,000 people around the world. Please visit the following websites to read the 2007 and 2008 post-conference publications:

<http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org/2007GYMC.asp> (2007) and

<http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org/2008GYMC.asp> (2008).

Conference Tracks - Overview: For those of you who submitted proposals and participated as presenters in the last two Global Youth Enterprise Conferences, you'll notice a new format for this year's conference. After an extensive global consultation with stakeholders in this field, it became apparent that there is great diversity of opinion on the themes this year's conference should cover. In response, the 2009 conference is being structured around five functional tracks:

Track 1: Project Design and Implementation

Track 2: Policy and Advocacy

Track 3: Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment

Track 4: Partnerships

Track 5: Cross-Cutting

You and your organization may submit more than one proposal, but each proposal must be prepared and submitted separately. Each proposal must also meet the criteria described in this document. You will receive an email confirming receipt of each proposal you submit.

A more detailed description of each track is included at the end of this document.

Three kinds of session categories: choose one!

Submitters must choose one of the following three types of break-out session formats that best fits the information they wish to present.

Option 1: 2-Hour Session: What Do We Know for Sure? Two-hour sessions are to share proven learnings, results, outcomes, and findings of programs/projects/policies that have been implemented for a significant amount of time and ideally have been evaluated. Presenters will design their sessions to impart concrete and practical information that will be useful to other practitioners, funders, and educators who are interested in applying the key points to their programming or policymaking.

Option 2: 1-Hour Session: Tools You Can Use Today. The 1-hour session is an opportunity for facilitators and participants to present and interact with conference participants on a **very specific tool, approach, methodology, or curriculum that has been field-tested** and relates to one of the conference's tracks with a smaller group of conference participants.

Option 3: 1.5-Hour Session: Ideas in Development to Achieve Our 2020 Vision. The 1.5- hour session will highlight new ideas, provocative questions, innovative approaches,

and unique research activities, which may not have evaluations or have even been implemented yet, but which hold promise for driving this field forward. These sessions could serve as an opportunity to elicit feedback on a methodology being developed; a “think tank” to discuss a pressing question; a platform for mobilizing support, participation, or action on a certain initiative; or simply an information exchange related to a geographic region. Proposals are particularly welcome on topics such as achieving scale and sustainability, microfranchising, microinsurance, technology, South-South collaborations, and urban development. The intent is to provide a space for open and informal dialogue around innovations in the field. Ideally, these sessions will be proposed with the intention of them continuing after the conference.

Note: Individuals and organizations may submit a maximum of one proposal per track. Each proposal should be for a self-contained session (i.e. Making Cents will not be identifying moderators).

Selection Criteria

The conference is designed to be an interactive event that fosters learning and encourages the exchange of meaningful information and ideas. In the 2007 and 2008 Global Youth Enterprise Conference evaluations, participants have strongly noted that they are interested in learning about:

- The decision-making processes and critical analyses that have been involved in various instances of programming and policymaking;
- What kinds of things happened during the project/policy design or implementation phase that didn't necessary go as planned and how an organization addressed it; and
- Concrete information they can utilize in their own programming.

Presenters in all types of sessions should address the following questions in their minds as they develop and lead their sessions: **What do you want your peers to get out of your session, and how does your session contribute to building the field?**

Proposals are selected using the following criteria:

- A completed session proposal has been submitted, and the primary presenter has complied with all application instructions, deadlines and requirements. (Incomplete submission will not be considered.)
- The subject of the proposed session is clear and relevant to the selected conference tracks and session type.
- Learning objectives and key points are clear, and the plan for meeting these objectives are clearly outlined in the application.
- The proposed presenter clearly demonstrates how he/she will take an analytical, and not a descriptive or marketing, approach towards addressing his/her proposed topic.
- The proposed session includes the use of creative or collaborative techniques and formats that engage the audience and promote a participatory environment.

- The proposed session offers tips, guides and/or tools for tangible, concrete, and practical “take-aways” related to the subject matter.
- The proposed presenter(s) are qualified to present on the subject of the proposed session, as demonstrated in a description of the experience he/she has on the topic and in presenting or facilitating sessions.
- The proposed session is educational and is not a promotion of a product, service or organization.
- The proposed session offers distinct, valuable, and applicable lessons to share.
- Youth have significant roles to play in the development and/or execution of a session.

Proposals must be written in English.

Time Line

Deadline for Proposal Submissions	April 24, 2009
Questions with Proposal Submitters	May 11-20, 2009
Notification of Selected Proposals	May 20-29, 2009
Confirmation and Registration Deadline for Invited Presenters	May 31, 2009
Presenter Orientation Meetings - virtual	June-August, 2009
Final Presentations and Session Material Due	September 1, 2009

CONFERENCE TRACKS – DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Track 1: Project Design and Implementation

This track is designed to explore strategies for designing and implementing programs and policies that will have lasting impact. Proposed sessions for this track might focus on:

- How to design a project that actually leads to young people getting a job or starting a successful business
- Holistic and integrated approaches that have successfully led to long-term youth employment and successful youth enterprises
- Effectively integrating youth into competitive value chains
- Methodologies for teaching youth how to identify viable business opportunities
- Projects or organizations that provide financial services to youth
- How to best prevent against increasing the vulnerability of girls when designing a financial services program for them
- Youth participation in the design and implementation of youth enterprise and employment programs, and the difference between “youth-led” and “youth inclusive” programming
- Youth social entrepreneurship that creates income and builds livelihoods
- Organizations that have effectively used technology to engage young people and/or to achieve their program’s objectives
- The use of remittances to achieve youth employment and enterprise creation

- How organizations are planning for or have achieved sustainability and/or scale in their youth enterprise, employment, and livelihoods programs
- How youth livelihoods are being addressed in projects today
- How to equip youth effectively to deal with shocks and market shifts
- Ways technology is being used to increase young people's access to business opportunities and interests in entrepreneurship
- How to prioritize the various and complex needs youth have when designing projects

Track 2: Policy and Advocacy

The Policy and Advocacy track will analyze policy and policy-related initiatives at the community, national, and international levels. Policy and Advocacy track sessions will provide examples on how organizations and governments have addressed or have attempted to address youth enterprise, employment, and livelihoods development at the policy level. Submissions may cover a number of topics, but must connect with policy and/or the enabling environment.

Proposed sessions for this track might focus on:

- national youth policies that support youth entrepreneurship, provide economic incentives to businesses to hire young people or take on youth apprentices, and/or demonstrate a multi-sectoral approach
- regional inter-governmental efforts to increase employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people
- local or national policies that reduce the barriers young people face when starting a business
- advocacy efforts that aim to influence policy related to the integration of entrepreneurship education into the formal education system
- entrepreneurship education that has been effectively mainstreamed throughout a formal education system
- government-led “youth employment/entrepreneurship schemes” to increase economic opportunities for young people

Track 3: Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessments

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessments track will address the need to better understand what is working well and what should be improved or discarded. It will carry forth discussions conference participants had at the 2008 Global Youth Enterprise Conference where this topic was a technical theme. **Proposed sessions for this track might focus on:**

- Field-tested monitoring and evaluation tools for measuring quality, scale, and/or sustainability
- Cost-benefit analyses that compare intervention strategies
- Studies on the returns on investment of particular youth enterprise, employment, and/or livelihoods programs

- Examples of engaging young people in the monitoring and evaluation of youth enterprise, employment, and/or livelihoods programs
- How to use monitoring and evaluation tools to increase the competency and motivation of leaders in program implementation
- Effective low-cost methodologies for measuring impact
- Proxy indicators for measuring the impact of youth enterprise, employment, and livelihood programs
- Experiences and lessons learned from using different monitoring and evaluation methodologies in the same context
- How to effectively measure “youth readiness” (e.g. to deal with shocks, to navigate market opportunities, etc.)

Track 4: Partnerships

The Partnerships track will address the widespread recognition that partnerships can help organizations and programs focus on their core competencies and better achieve their objectives. In the field of youth enterprise, employment, and livelihoods development, partnerships are often crucial for ensuring programs are market-driven, reach scale, and are sustainable. Sessions in this track will highlight effective partnerships, especially those that engage members of the private and public sectors, which have led or are leading to increased entrepreneurship and/or employment opportunities for young people..Proposed sessions for this track might focus on:

- how a local NGO was able to engage with an international company to sell products in new markets that youth entrepreneurs who participated in their program made
- a project that a consortium of an international NGO, a multilateral donor, and a private sector company developed to create win-win-win solutions for youth employment
- a partnership between an vocational/technical training organization and a local company to increase the employability skills of young people the local company is interested in hiring
- an example of a multi-faceted partnership that connects young entrepreneurs to value chains in a particular sector
- How organizations are working across the Global South to collaborate on initiatives that address youth unemployment in urban areas

Track 5: Cross-Cutting

The purpose of the Cross-Cutting track is to provide a space for organizations to highlight initiatives that relate to 2 or more of the other tracks. Therefore, it will feature initiatives that can provide lessons learned, promising practices, or innovative ideas surrounding project design and implementation, policy, M&E, and/or partnerships. While many of the sessions in the other tracks will highlight programs that include components related to another track, the primary piece those sessions will highlight will relate to the track while this track intends to highlight the inter-play between those aspects. Proposed sessions for this track might focus on:

- how a partnership between a particular funder and an NGO led to the development of innovative M&E tools that evaluated the effectiveness of a youth enterprise project, the design of which took a holistic approach
- a multi-sectoral collaboration, which has a strong M&E and research component and is seeking additional partners to launch many new projects in a region
- a national youth policy that has a strong focus on youth enterprise development, and which contains an M&E component
- ways a consortium of partners integrated M&E into the design of a youth livelihoods program and the outcomes the program had as a result