



## Call for Proposals for Up and Coming 2018

March 16-17, 2018, 2018 in Milwaukee, WI.

We're excited to announce that, for the first time ever in our nine year history, the co-hosts of Up and Coming - the Indiana Cooperative Development Center (ICDC) and Food Co-op Initiative (FCI) - are seeking peer proposals for workshop sessions through **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Food co-op start-up organizers, your peers want to learn from YOU!

We are specifically looking for session proposals from those that are actively organizing a startup food co-op; those who were core organizers of their open startup food co-op; or those who are GMs/board members who helped to get their co-op's store open and continue to serve in a leadership role at this time at their startup food co-op, post-open.

Please read this Call for Proposals carefully before submitting.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE CONFERENCE AND AUDIENCE:

Up and Coming is a national conference for startup food co-op featuring two days of workshops, peer networking, and access to food co-op industry experts. The conference serves those just beginning to explore organizing a startup food co-op to those startups that have been open and operating a year or more.

### FORMAT

Each workshop is part of a Track and is 75 minutes in length and they can be delivered in the format of your choice: panel, lecture, or interactive workshop.

### SESSION TRACKS

Up and Coming 2018 will feature six topic tracks. We are accepting peer proposals for two of the six topic tracks:

- Ownership and Outreach: presentations on innovative ideas for ownership growth, communications, and branding.
- Case Studies: presentations telling the full story of a startup food co-op from conception to current day and/or of a particular effort or project that was part of a startup's organizing work.

### SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All proposals for Up and Coming 2018 must be submitted electronically via email to Deb Trocha at dtrocha@icdc.coop. **Proposals are due by 11:59 pm eastern time on June 30th, 2017.**

## **SESSION PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

1. Session title and description (300-500 words)
2. Three active learning outcomes that an attendee can expect to take away from your presentation that they could apply to the organizing of their own co-op
3. Session format – lecture, multi-presenter lecture, panel
4. Main presenter's name, title, organization, email, phone number, and mailing address; the name of any additional presenters or panelists for the session.
5. Which, if any, of the 2018 Topic/Presenter goals are met by the proposed workshop. (See below.)

If selected, your name, biography, presentation title, session description and learning objectives will be made available on the Up and Coming website. Conference attendees will receive a copy of your presentation via Dropbox.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

To ensure full and fair consideration, proposals will be evaluated and selected by the Up and Coming planning team according to following criteria:

- **Unique Perspective** – offers a take on a core startup organizing issue that is original or offers an innovative solution other startups can adapt and use.
- **Program Balance** – our goal is to cover a wide array of start-up organizing topics
- **Relevance** – preference will be given to presentations that meet one of our 2018 topic and/or presenter goals, see below

## **2018 TOPIC/PRESENTER GOALS**

These goals are set annually by the organizing team to meet a developing need or demand in the food co-op start-up learning community. Presentations that meet one or more of these goals will be given extra consideration, but presentations that do not address one of these goals are still welcome.

- **Governance** – true stories of start-up governance: what is and isn't working in the start-up trenches are in demand. Your peers want to learn about your terrific meeting structure, your on-boarding process for new board members, how you make sure you get great candidates for the board, and more.
- **POC (Person of Color) Main Presenter** – in an effort to support the growth of POC leadership in the food co-op industry, proposals by presenters that self-identify as a POC will be given extra consideration
- **Failure** – we hear again and again that start-up organizers want to hear more about and learn from what went wrong. Some of the best lessons for our industry are in the stories of a project or effort that didn't work or why a startup folded. Presentations that provide an honest tell the

true tale of a start-up effort failure and what can be learned from it will be given extra preference.

- The GM Experience – startup organizers want to hear from YOU, startup GMs! What was it like coming on board at a startup? What could have made the experience better? What wisdom have you gained from the process that you'd like to pass on to boards and/or future start-up GMs? Or, if you are a board that has conducted a GM hiring process, we want to hear from YOU about what you learned from the experience – from hiring to transitioning to GM leadership.

Participation as a presenter in Up and Coming 2018 is voluntary. In recognition of a presenter's contribution of time and effort, selected presentations will be given complimentary conference admission for up to two (2) presenters per session. Each presenter remains responsible for his or her own expenses (travel, lodging, etc.). Everyone who submits a proposal will be notified of selection decisions no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

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#### **TIMELINE:**

- 5/30 - Call for workshop proposals opens
- 6/30 – All workshop proposals are due
- 7/15 – applicants will be notified of their application status

#### **QUESTIONS?**

Please contact Deb Trocha, Indiana Cooperative Development Center by email at [dtrocha@icdc.coop](mailto:dtrocha@icdc.coop) or by phone at 317-692-7707.

We look forward to receiving your proposal.