Elevate Your Ideas to the National Stage

Now Accepting Proposals for Upswell 2020 through April 24

Imagine the enormous potential when thousands of changemakers – each one with unique perspectives, experiences, and skills – gather. That’s literally tens of thousands of years of doing good – all in one place.

It’s up to all of us to make the very most of our time together, to squeeze out every drop of energy and impact.

This is your invitation to help make that happen.

From quick talks to creative problem-solving to bold prototyping (and, really, anything else that you think would make a real difference in the world), we’re excited to accept proposals for a wide range of activities on the Upswell schedule.

The three-day program will be co-created by changemakers like you. It’s a powerful opportunity to capture the imagination of the nation’s brightest doers and dreamers, designed to elevate the very best thinking and boldest ideas from across the social good space.

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL AT upswell.org/co-create

October 14-16, 2020
NOVA Place
Pittsburgh, PA

You’re invited to Pittsburgh for a national social good experience that aims to forge a world where every person can thrive.

Upswell, powered by Independent Sector, will bring together thousands of changemakers – nonprofit and philanthropic leaders, activists, social entrepreneurs, government officials, and more – for a high-energy forum to learn, share, connect, re-charge, and consider powerful ways to create positive change for all communities.

You won’t want to miss it.

We hope you’ll join us there.
Themes

ACCELERATION

This is about learning best practices, strengthening skills, and discovering how to be a more effective changemaker. Think of this as high-impact capacity building.

INNOVATION

These activities explore the leading edge of doing good, with powerful new data, experimental technology, and moonshot ideas about changing the status quo.

COLLABORATION

Build bridges across differences, brainstorm with influential leaders, and forge new cross-sector relationships. Your breakthrough moment might only be a conversation away.

7 Ways to Co-Create

DEEP DIVE WORKSHOPS

120/150/180 minutes

These workshops go deep to make a major impact. They can be a thorough introduction to a skill or methodology, a structured exploration of a social issue, or an outcome-oriented brainstorming session.

WORKSHOPS

45/60/75 minutes

Whether it’s training participants to think differently or sharing tools they can put into practice, your workshop should be experiential, action-oriented, and focused on facilitating connections among participants.

TURN THE CURVE

45 minutes

Share a data trend line around a critical issue and facilitate group discussion about the impact of underlying factors and strategies that might “turn the curve” to make real impact.

FOCUS GROUPS

30 minutes

Pick a critical issue and lead a high-energy, small-group discussion about challenges, lessons learned, and new solutions.

SPARK TALKS

10 minutes

On stage in Upwell’s busiest open spaces, what big, bold idea do you want to share with a curious audience?

SCIENCE/TECH DEMOS

30 minutes

Showcase a technology or science innovation that’s advancing the way we do changework. We’re looking for hands-on, interactive demos that are best shared with small groups.

REFLECTION ACTIVITIES

30/60 Minutes

Help changemakers connect with their inner life by refreshing their minds and spirits.

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