



## **Autism New Jersey Seeks Submissions for 43rd Annual Conference October 16 & 17, 2025 | Atlantic City, NJ**

Autism New Jersey is now seeking submissions for our 43rd Annual Conference to be held at Harrah's in Atlantic City on October 16 & 17, 2025. The Call for Papers is open through **February 28, 2025**.

The conference will be an in-person event with recordings of sessions available to two-day attendees, post-conference. We expect attendance to well exceed 1,200 as it has every year for decades.

Attendees provided thoughtful feedback on numerous aspects of the conference including the workshop variety and quality. Our goal is to ensure that our conference provides value to parents, professionals, and autistic individuals whether it's their first time at our conference or their twentieth!

### **Conference Program Goals**

It is our goal to have presentations that address...

- A wide range of abilities and support needs across the lifespan
- Diverse attendee types (e.g., behavior analysts, educators, social workers, speech-language pathologists, parents)
- Difficulty levels from beginner to advanced
- Different workshop lengths: shorter (60 minutes) or extended (90 minute).
- Perspectives from experts from various backgrounds including ABA, psychology, general and special education, healthcare, speech-language pathology, and social work.

### **Priority Topic Areas**

- Academics (e.g., reading and math interventions) and other educational considerations for teachers and administrators)
- Early intervention/preschool and younger learners
- Modern approaches for BCBAs (e.g., ACT, PEAK, AIM, PFA+SBT, TagTeach) and advanced behavior analytic content (especially for seasoned BCBAs)
- Experiences of and considerations for diverse communities
- BCBA supervision
- Profound autism considerations across the lifespan
- Communication supports such as AAC
- Considerations for families/parents/guardians

Submissions are also welcomed for conference topics such as behavior assessment and intervention, adult/transition considerations, social skills, trauma-informed practice, and medical care. However, because our goal is to promote new and engaging content, we will be accepting a more limited number of workshops in non-priority areas. If you have another topic idea that you would like feedback on prior to submission, please reach out to [conference@autismnj.org](mailto:conference@autismnj.org).

## **Workshop Information You'll Need When Submitting**

- **Title** - Should be engaging, clear, and relatively concise
- **Short title** - Should be 40 characters or less and convey essential information
- **Requested length of workshop** - 60 or 90 minutes. The majority of workshop slots are for 60 minutes, and 90-minute workshop slots are allocated for instances where, for example, an advanced topic requires a deeper dive.
- **Relevance to learner needs** - significant supports, minimal supports, both, or neither)
- **Intended audience(s)** - BCBAs, general/special education teachers, psychologists, SLPs, social workers, parents, autistic individuals
- **Level of difficulty of topic for the intended audience** - beginning, intermediate, advanced
- **Bibliography** - at least three references in APA format with at least two since 2020
- **Time-ordered agenda**
  - No increments greater than 15-minutes; formatted *"15 minutes: Strategies and practical uses of activity schedules in the classroom (includes video)."*
  - Do not spend time on foundational information (e.g., autism 101, definition of ABA).
  - Q&A + Intro time cannot exceed 10 minutes total.
- **Learning objectives** - three specific, observable, and measurable objectives formatted as: *"Participants will be able to... "*
- **Abstract** - workshop description for the agenda
  - Include information on what the workshop will review, who the target audience is, and what participants will learn. There should also be a problem statement of sorts in the beginning (the "hook" for why someone would want to attend the workshop).
  - Exemplar: "Professionals and parents have the shared goal of wanting to help children succeed. However, due to various obstacles resulting from emotional, practical, and legal issues, collaboration can sometimes break down. This interactive workshop is intended to help parents and educators overcome barriers to student success through an open and honest interactive discussion about the challenges they face and offering solutions to overcome them. Participants will learn how to: better understand competing perspectives when tackling common issues, generate potential solutions to overcome common challenges in the development of an IEP, and develop a more in-depth understanding of the law and how to use it to the child's benefit."

## **Presenter/Presentation Expectations**

Presenters from previous years are welcome to again submit proposals. However, please note that resubmitting the exact same presentation from a previous year is generally discouraged. First-time presenters at our conference not accompanied by an individual who has previously presented at it must provide documentation of presentations at other events or a letter of recommendation detailing knowledge of the content to be discussed and presenting skills.

Whether first time or returning...

- Presenters are to give their presentations in person.

- Presenters should be engaging (i.e., avoid reading directly from slides) and should discuss evidence-based practices supplemented by real-life examples.
- Presenters are to upload their handouts at least two days prior to their presentation.

### **Presenter Information You'll Need When Submitting**

Each workshop can have up to three presenters. Those wishing to submit a large panel presentation (more than three presenters) should contact [conference@autismnj.org](mailto:conference@autismnj.org) in advance of submitting a proposal.

Presenters should plan to share the following information when submitting proposals...

- **Contact information** - phone, address, email
- **Credentials** - including relevant certification or licensure numbers
- **Bio** – to be linked from your workshop
- **Resumes/CVs for all presenters** - for review of academic/experience qualifications to present
- **Financial/nonfinancial disclosures for all presenters** – as per CE board requirements

### **Proposal Reviews**

Proposals will be reviewed by the conference team with notification of approval status anticipated by early April 2025. Acceptance is determined based on a variety of factors including attendee feedback, conference staff feedback, alignment with Autism New Jersey's position statements, and conference/workshop needs.

### **Questions?**

Contact [conference@autismnj.org](mailto:conference@autismnj.org) for any questions or concerns.

**Reminder: Deadline is February 28, 2025**