

## **2025 Symposium FAQ**

### **Why is the Alliance hosting a Symposium instead of a Fall Conference?**

We're launching the Symposium to create a more focused, solutions-driven experience. It's designed for deeper engagement, bold ideas, and collaborative problem-solving around the most urgent challenges in child welfare and behavioral health.

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### **What makes the Symposium different from a typical conference/event?**

The Symposium is not a traditional event — it's a catalyst for systems change. Key differences include:

- **One-day, deep-dive format** with fewer, more intentional sessions. Sessions will be repeated to support learning and retention.
  - **No exhibitors or tabling** — all attention is on dialogue and collaboration.
  - **Interactive and participatory sessions** — designed for co-creation, not passive listening.
  - **Ideas generated will directly inform policy and advocacy efforts.**
  - **Ongoing engagement via the event app** — including post-event discussion boards and collaboration tools.
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### **Why are there no exhibitors?**

The Symposium is designed to maximize participant engagement and cross-sector collaboration. By not including exhibitors, we're creating a focused, distraction-free environment where every moment is dedicated to solving real problems. While exhibitors are important to our larger events, the Symposium prioritizes co-creation over promotion to support its unique goals.

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### **Why isn't there an early bird registration rate?**

Instead of offering early bird pricing, we're giving members exclusive early access to registration. This ensures those most connected to our work have the first opportunity to attend and helps us manage space and maintain the quality of discussion we're aiming for.

Because space is limited, this member-first approach allows us to curate a group of engaged leaders ready to collaborate and drive real impact.

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**Is this a one-time change?**

No — the Symposium reflects a long-term shift in how we convene. It's part of a broader commitment to innovation, equity, and systems change. We'll continue to engage attendees after the event to sustain momentum and translate ideas into action.

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**How should I describe this event to others?**

Think of the Symposium as a full day working session for change-makers — not just another event. It's a unique opportunity for cross-sector leaders to co-create solutions that directly shape the future of child welfare and behavioral health in Ohio.

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**Have more questions?**

Reach out to our team anytime. We're happy to help and excited to lead this transformation together.