

FOCUS 2025

Where Magic Meets Mission

Welcome to Focus 2025: Where Magic Meets Mission

Step into a world where passion meets purpose, where innovation sparks transformation, and where every moment is filled with the possibility of creating lasting change. National Safe Place Network (NSPN) is honored to host Focus 2025, bringing together dedicated professionals committed to youth safety and well-being. This year's event will take place at Disney's Contemporary Resort in Orlando, Florida, from July 22-24, 2025.

This year's theme, "Where Magic Meets Mission," is more than just a phrase—it's a reflection of the work done every day to ensure the safety and well-being of youth in crisis. Just as Disney creates magical experiences, those in the youth services field create moments of hope, resilience, and opportunity for young people across the nation. Focus 2025 brings together professionals, advocates, and visionaries to explore innovative strategies, strengthen partnerships, and leave with renewed inspiration to serve youth and families.

Over the next several days, attendees will engage in dynamic workshops, thought-provoking discussions, and networking opportunities designed to equip them with the tools and knowledge needed to enhance their impact. From insightful general sessions to specialized breakout sessions, each moment is tailored to support those dedicated to ensuring that every young person has access to safety, stability, and support.

As you embark on this journey of learning and collaboration, embrace the opportunity to connect with peers, share ideas, and discover new ways to elevate your mission. The magic of this conference lies in the collective energy of those who have gathered here with one common goal: to make a difference.

Together, let's create something extraordinary. Welcome to Focus 2025!





NATIONAL SAFE PLACE NETWORK

Keep the Focus 2025 magic alive by joining the conversation on Facebook.
Follow and engage with NSPN and Safe Place® throughout the conference:

CONNECT WITH NSPN

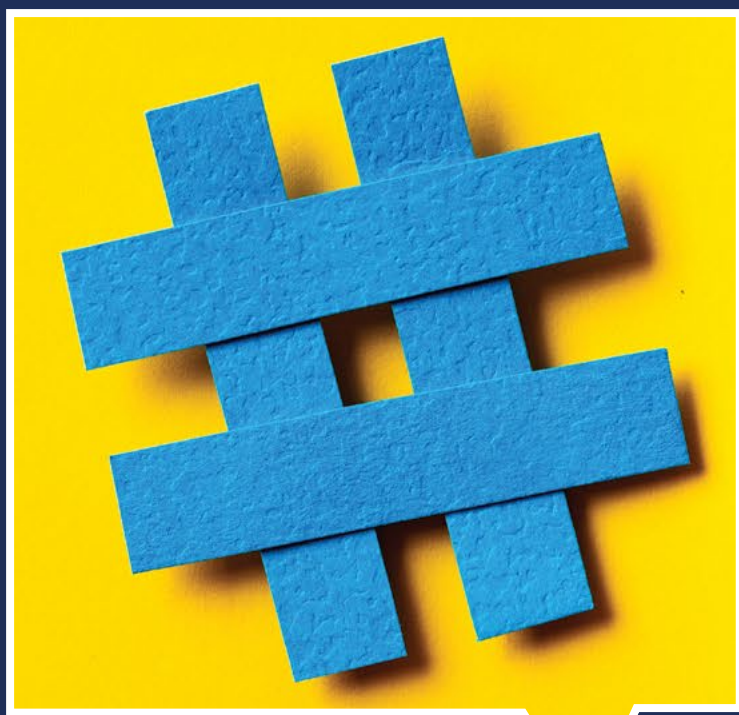


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CONFERENCE HASHTAGS AND HANDLES

Share your experience and connect with
others using the official event hashtags:

[#NSPNFocus2025](#)

[#MagicMeetsMission](#)

Let's make this conference
one to remember!



(NSPN) [/nspnetwork](#)
(Safe Place) [/natlsafeplace](#)



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The Focus 2025 App: Your Magic Portal to the Conference

Navigate Focus 2025 with ease using the official NSPN Events app. This digital guide is your key to unlocking a seamless and engaging conference experience.



With the app, you can view the full conference schedule, build your personalized agenda, learn about speakers and sponsors, connect with fellow attendees, and check into sessions by scanning QR codes at each event.



- Search for “NSPN Events” in your app store or scan the QR code.
- Tap ‘GET’ (Apple) or ‘Install’ (Google) to download.
- Open the app and tap the profile icon (top right).
- Follow the prompts to request an access code (use the email from your conference registration).
- Enter the code sent to your email.
- You’re in! Customize your profile by tapping the profile button at the top right.

Now you’re ready to explore Focus 2025 and make the most of your magical experience!

Help Shape the Magic of Future Conferences

Your feedback is essential in ensuring that future NSPN events continue to provide the learning experiences and inspiration you need.



Workshop & Discussion Evaluations – Share your thoughts on individual workshop sessions by completing evaluations through the conference app. Prefer a paper version? Request one at the Conference Information Center or in the workshop room before or after the session.



Overall Conference Evaluation – Help us make future events even more magical by completing the overall conference evaluation. This will be available at the Closing Session, in the conference app, and post-conference via email.

The deadline to submit evaluations is Friday, August 1, 2025. Thank you for helping make Focus 2025 the most magical yet!

Continuing Education Units (CEUs): Capture the Magic of Learning

Focus 2025 is designed to elevate your knowledge —and now, it can also help you earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs). CEUs for the conference are provided by The University of Tennessee, College of Social Work.

During online registration, licensed professionals had the opportunity to request CEUs. If you didn't provide the required information at that time, don't worry —you can still complete a [CEU request form](#). Important Reminder: **To qualify for CEUs, participants must attend all conference sessions.** Unfortunately, NSPN cannot process CEU requests submitted after the event.



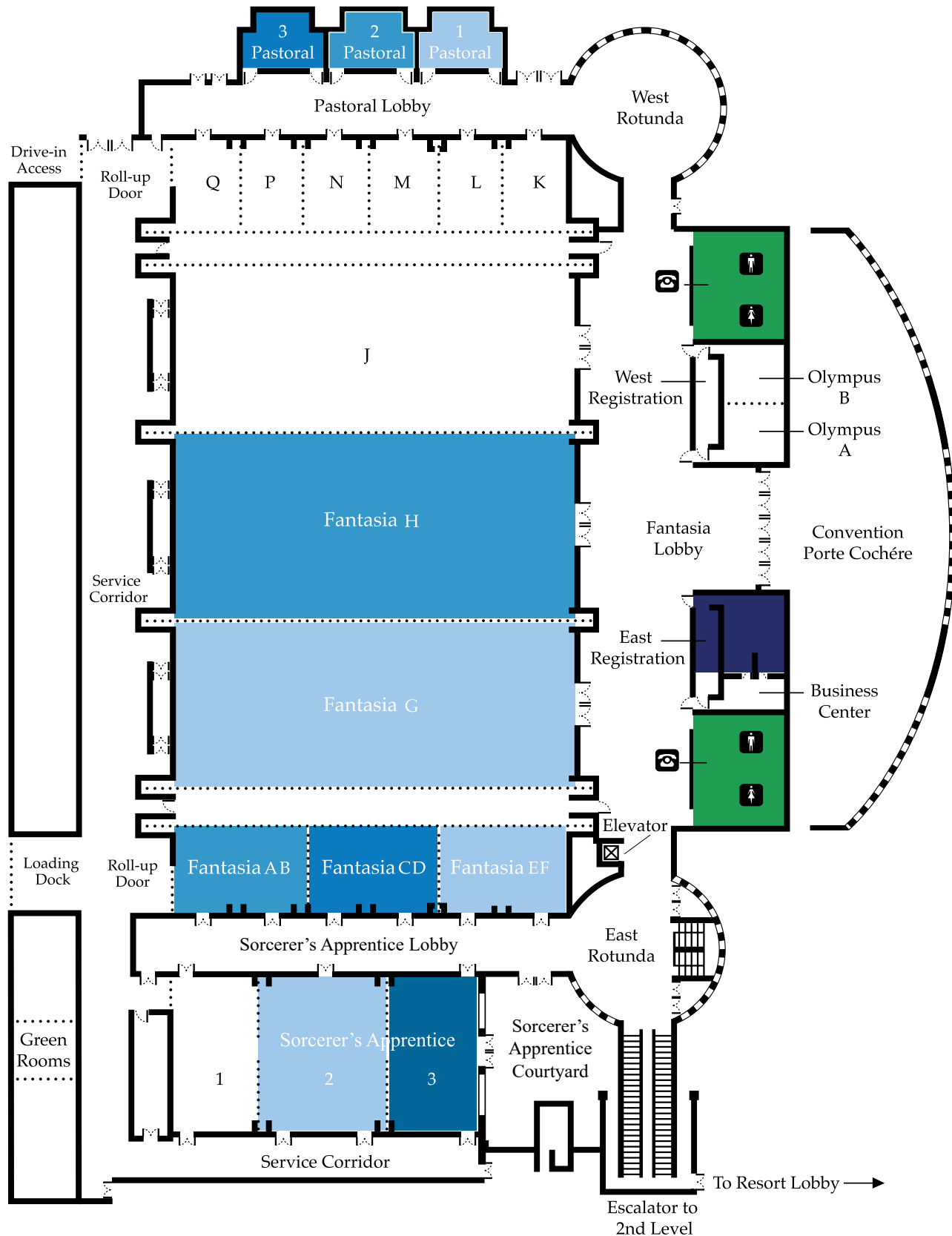
For questions, see an NSPN staff member or email support@nspnetwork.org.

NSPN Connect: Keep the Magic Going

The conversation doesn't have to end when Focus 2025 does. NSPN Connect is an exclusive community forum available to NSPN members, providing a space to discuss topics of interest, share valuable resources, and stay connected with a strong network of support. Licensed Safe Place agencies also have access to a dedicated Safe Place discussion board, offering a focused space for collaboration. [Log in to NSPN Connect](#) and keep the networking, learning, and collaboration going long after the conference.



Disney's Contemporary Resort | Main Level





SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, JULY 21

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Conference Check-In | Registration**

TUESDAY, JULY 22

7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. **Conference Check-In | Registration**
Closed during general sessions

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Focus 2023 Opening Session**

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Workshop Session I**

12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Lunch Break** (*on your own*)

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **Keynote Presentation**

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Focused Discussions**

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. **Focus 2025 Welcome Reception**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. **Conference Information Center Open**
Closed during general sessions

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Breakfast & Roundtable Discussions**

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Workshop Session II**

11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **NSPN Awards Luncheon**

2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **Workshop Session III**

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Tool Time Poster Session
& Reverse Site Visits**

THURSDAY, JULY 24

8:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Conference Information Center Open**
Closed during general sessions

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Policy Breakfast: “Wake up to Change”**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Closing session: “Wayfinding”
& Runaway Games**

FULL SCHEDULE AND SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

MONDAY, JULY 21

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
East Registration Desk

Conference Check-in

TUESDAY, JULY 22

7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
East Registration Desk

Conference Check-in

Conference Information Center closed during general sessions and special events

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Fantasia G

Opening Session
The Magic of a Future

Every day, we work tirelessly to provide safety, resources, and housing for runaway and homeless youth. But how often do we reflect on the long-term impact of these efforts? What does success truly look like? How can the experiences of those who have faced homelessness shape the way we serve young people today?

In this powerful keynote, Dr. Sheryl Recinos will share personal stories and real-life examples from her own journey and from other survivors of youth homelessness. Through their experiences, she will inspire attendees to reimagine possibilities, recognize the potential in every young person, and consider the future they can achieve when their needs are met today.

This session will challenge us to think beyond immediate crisis response and explore what is truly possible when youth receive the support, stability, and opportunities they deserve.

Speaker: [Sheryl Recinos, MD](#)

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Workshop Session I

Fantasia A/B

AI 101 – Understanding the Basics and Beyond

This presentation provides a comprehensive introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI), exploring its fundamental concepts, history, and current applications. Attendees will gain insight into key AI components, ethical considerations, the impact of AI on various industries, and future trends shaping the field.

Designed for both beginners and professionals, this session aims to demystify AI, highlight its potential, and address common misconceptions. By the end of the presentation, participants will have a solid foundation to understand and engage with AI technologies in both their personal and professional lives.

The session will cover essential questions such as: What is Artificial Intelligence, and how does it work? What are its limitations and concerns? How will AI affect jobs on a global scale? How is AI being used in research, business, graphics, and music? What are Deep Fakes, and how do they impact digital content? What are some of the applications incorporating AI today? Finally, how can AI be leveraged as a tool for generating revenue?

Presenter: [Jimmy J. Davies, Every.Black.LLC](#)

Fantasia C/D

“Out” Reach for the Stars

Effective outreach to youth and the community is a key component of a successful Safe Place program. This session will explore various aspects of outreach, including strategies for maximizing event participation, strengthening local networking opportunities, and ensuring meaningful follow-up.

Presenters will share innovative, cost-effective, and creative outreach materials that not only generate enthusiasm for the program but also enhance understanding of its mission. Attendees will also have the opportunity to take part in a “create your own swag” activity, designed to inspire fresh outreach ideas.

Come prepared to exchange insights, share successful outreach strategies, and celebrate the fun and importance of community engagement.

Presenters: [Melanie Soldevilla, CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services](#) and [Mahogany Smart, ACH Child and Family Services](#)

Fantasia E/F

Building Partnerships and Collaborations

Strong partnerships and collaborations can enhance services for young people while optimizing resources for organizations. Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) has successfully developed and sustained strategic partnerships to address key issues such as youth homelessness, increasing youth voice in civic affairs, and teen pregnancy/STI prevention.

This session will highlight successful collaborations, including the Youth Homelessness System Improvement Project, the Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care, and the Hawaii Children and Youth Summit. These initiatives have led to increased funding, stronger service coordination, and more effective support systems for youth.

Participants will explore the benefits and challenges of creating partnerships, as well as the processes necessary for sustaining them. Through discussion and an interactive exercise, attendees will identify potential partners for their own work and gain practical strategies for fostering successful collaborations.

By the end of the session, participants will be able to describe ways organizations can partner, recognize key benefits of collaborations, and identify potential challenges that may arise in partnership development.

Presenter: [Judith F. Clark, Hawaii Youth Services Network](#)

Sorcerer's Apprentice 2

Board or Bored: Effective Engagement Strategies for Board Members

Board members are vital volunteers with significant responsibilities tied to an organization's mission, legal guidance, and financial health. Their level of engagement and effort often hinges on their understanding of their roles and the belief that their contributions make a difference.

Unfortunately, many board members can feel disconnected, underutilized, and uninformed, leading to diminished participation, reduced support, and growing disengagement. This session features a panel of board members dedicated to youth safety and well-being, who will share their insights on fostering strong governance, supporting mission-driven initiatives, and ensuring board members remain actively engaged.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session addressing challenges related to board member behaviors and strategies for fostering engagement, connection, and sustained meaningful support.

Facilitator: [Laurie Padilla, National Safe Place Network](#)

Panelists: National Nonprofit Board Members

Sorcerer's Apprentice 3

Where Money meets Mission – Sustaining Your Efforts

The sometimes-hard truth of our work is that despite the critical need to support youth and families, nothing happens without funding. Changing funder priorities, economic shifts, and evolving federal focus areas mean that those responsible for development must constantly seek ways to sustain their organization's efforts.

This workshop features two experienced development professionals who understand the delicate balance of crafting proposals that secure funding while ensuring program needs and organizational capacity are respected.

Attendees will gain practical strategies for navigating the challenges of sustainability, explore what has worked for others in the field, and discuss common obstacles in maintaining program funding. Participants are also encouraged to share their own innovative approaches for sustaining vital services while balancing personal and professional demands in this ever-evolving landscape.

Presenters: [Sydney Foster, Immerse Arkansas](#) and [Erin Strohbehn, Youth in Need](#)

12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch (on your own)

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Fantasia G

General Session

How the Transportation Industry can be a Key Partner in Protecting Youth from Trafficking and Exploitation

As youth travel to and from school, work and other activities, they interact with various facets of the transportation industry, including school buses, local transit, and rideshare services. They may also stop at locations such as gas stations, rest stops, travel plazas, and convenience stores. Each of these touchpoints represents a critical opportunity to identify and support vulnerable youth, prevent exploitation, and connect trafficking survivors with resources, Safe Place locations, and law enforcement.

Since 2009, TAT (Truckers Against Trafficking) has partnered with industry leaders who are stepping up in the fight against human trafficking. To date, over two million individuals in the transportation sector have been trained and registered with TAT.

This panel discussion will feature representatives from the bus, truck stop, and shipping industries who have leveraged their roles to protect vulnerable youth and strengthen community-wide responses to trafficking. Attendees will also learn about free resources available to prevent, identify, and respond to potential cases of child trafficking.

Facilitator: [Lexi Higgins, Truckers Against Trafficking](#)

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fantasia G

Focused Discussions

Participants will have the opportunity to debrief the keynote session and reflect on key takeaways related to child trafficking. These facilitated discussions will provide a space to dive deeper into specific aspects of anti-trafficking efforts, share insights, and explore practical applications within communities and organizations. Separate facilitated discussions will explore how to establish effective partnerships with local transit agencies; the role of corporate involvement in the mission to end human trafficking, and trafficking trends from a national perspective. Additionally, conversations will address challenges and enhancements in agency-based responses to trafficking.

Attendees are encouraged to engage in dialogue, exchange ideas, and explore actionable strategies to strengthen prevention, intervention, and response efforts in their communities.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Fantasia H

Focus 2025 Welcome Reception

Step into an enchanted evening of connection and celebration at the Focus 2025 Welcome Reception! Join fellow attendees for a delightful gathering filled with light hors d'oeuvres, engaging conversations, and a touch of magic. This is the perfect opportunity to meet new colleagues, reconnect with familiar faces, and set the stage for an inspiring conference experience. Whether you're exchanging ideas, forging new partnerships, or simply soaking in the energy of the event, this reception invites you to unwind, connect, and let the magic of mission-driven work come to life.

Day One Networking and Notes

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

East Registration Desk

Focus 2025 Information Center Open

Closed during general sessions and special events

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Fantasia H

Breakfast and Roundtable Discussions

Rise and shine for breakfast at 8:00 a.m., followed by engaging, facilitated table discussions on key topics in the field of youth and family services. This interactive session offers a unique opportunity to connect with colleagues, share insights, and explore innovative approaches to serving youth and families.

Tables will be designated for discussions on Youth Homelessness Demonstration Projects, Child Welfare Collaborations, the Evolution of the Safe Place Program, Safety when Working with Youth in the Community, and more. If you're feeling adventurous, take part in an A.M. Adventure Basket—a fun networking activity where you'll draw a get-to-know-you question and be the first to answer.

Fuel up, make connections, and start your day with meaningful conversation and a little morning magic!

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Fantasia A/B

Workshop Session II

Leading with a Coaching Mindset: How Asking Powerful Questions Can Build Trust and Improve Performance

This interactive workshop invites participants to learn, engage, and practice proven techniques for building trust, improving performance, and refining communication skills. The session will explore the benefits of adopting a coaching mindset as a leader, effective communication strategies, and the power of asking the right questions to foster insight and growth.

Professional coaching focuses on leadership development by removing barriers and creating a plan for growth and improvement. It is an effective approach for managing change, defining and achieving goals, and strengthening relationships. By learning how to ask powerful questions, leaders can help others gain deeper insights that serve as a catalyst for positive change.

This workshop will provide practical tools to shift your mindset to that of a coach—one who empowers others, fosters trust, and supports success in both personal and professional settings.

Presenter: [Belinda Gates, Compass Enterprise LLC](#)

This workshop is all about you—your knowledge, your experience, and your questions. Designed as a highly interactive session, it provides an open networking format to showcase Safe Place program successes while exploring opportunities for future growth and impact.

Every community is unique, and so are the ways Safe Place programs maximize their potential at the local level. This session invites participants to share best practices, exchange ideas, and develop strategies to help ensure their Safe Place efforts effectively meet the varied needs of youth in crisis.

Come prepared to learn, collaborate, and innovate as we strengthen the Safe Place network together.

Presenter: [Tammy L. Hopper, National Safe Place Network](#)

“AI for Streamlined Grant Writing: A Hands-On Workshop for Youth Nonprofits” is designed to introduce attendees to the effective use of artificial intelligence tools in simplifying and enhancing the grant writing process. Tailored for beginners, this interactive workshop walks participants through the practical application of AI to draft key sections of grant proposals, perform research, and develop program designs. Through live demonstrations and hands-on exercises, participants will explore how AI can help streamline time-consuming tasks in grant writing, such as creating the statement of need and drafting budgets, while maintaining human oversight to ensure strategic alignment and accuracy. The session highlights AI as a tool to complement, not replace, the critical thinking and expertise required for successful grant proposals. Objectives: Understand the fundamentals of AI and its role in the grant writing process. Learn how to apply AI to draft essential sections of grant proposals, including program design and budgets. Identify best practices for integrating AI tools into grant research and writing, ensuring a balance between technology and human insight.

Presenter: [Alyce F. Brown, Backing Small Consulting LLC](#)

This panel discussion will explore innovative approaches to preventing youth homelessness, demonstrating the importance of rethinking traditional prevention strategies. Attendees will gain insight into three distinct initiatives designed to support youth and young adults before they experience homelessness.

Panelists will share the success of a Direct Cash Transfer pilot engaged 45 Transition Age Youth (TAY) in San Francisco, highlighting how direct financial assistance can help stabilize housing. The discussion will also cover a growing partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District, which focuses on identifying and supporting youth and families at the greatest risk of homelessness. Additionally, panelists will provide insights from the federally-funded Youth Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Program, offering early learnings on collaborative, community-wide prevention planning.

Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of how direct financial support can promote housing stability, how school-based outreach can help intervene before homelessness occurs, and how community-wide prevention strategies are shaping the future of youth homelessness response.

Panel Presenters: [Marnie Regen](#), [Raionna Thompson](#), and [Courtney Brown](#), Larkin Street Youth Services

Sorcerer's Apprentice 3

Adulthood Disrupted! Piecing Together Authentic Youth Collaboration

Join this eye-opening journey into the world of youth collaboration and the often-overlooked biases of adulthood. This session will explore the impact of adulthood on young people and society, highlighting how shifting perceptions and embracing authentic collaboration can create meaningful change. Through thought-provoking discussion and real-world examples, participants will gain actionable insights on how to empower youth and young adults as true partners in decision-making and advocacy. Be prepared to challenge norms, break down barriers, and ignite a movement toward centering youth voices in a way that is genuine, impactful, and transformative.

Presenter: [Valerie Perez](#) and YAB member, Homeless Services Network of Central Florida

11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

NSPN Awards Luncheon

Fantasia G



Celebrate the outstanding contributions of individuals, agencies, businesses, and community organizations dedicated to supporting youth and families at the NSPN Awards Luncheon. This special event recognizes those making a meaningful impact while providing an opportunity to connect and reflect on the incredible work happening in communities across the country.

Sponsored By



Attendees will enjoy a delicious lunch while honoring this year's award recipients. Recognition will be given in several categories, including the Community Involvement Award, which highlights active community partners going above and beyond to support youth services. The Culture of Respect Award recognizes those championing justice, equality, and cultural competency in their leadership. The Executive Leadership Award celebrates individuals demonstrating unwavering commitment to staff and mission fulfillment.

The Helping Hands Volunteer Award acknowledges those who have gone the extra mile as volunteers in the youth services field. The HEROES for Youth Award honors individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to at-risk youth services on a national scale. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a long-standing commitment to improving the lives of youth and families. The Model Program Award showcases agencies that have developed innovative approaches to service delivery. Additionally, the Safe Place® Coordinator of the Year Award highlights exceptional program management, while the Youth in Action Award celebrates young individuals making a difference in their communities. The Together We Can Award honors outstanding collaborative efforts in youth services, and the Essential Voice Award recognizes those amplifying youth voices in meaningful ways.

This inspiring luncheon offers an opportunity to reflect on the dedication, passion, and innovation driving positive change for youth and families. Be part of this meaningful celebration and take in the stories of those making a difference every day.

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Break

2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Workshop Session III

Fantasia A/B

Safe Place – Overview of Standards for Licensed Partners

This workshop provides a comprehensive overview of operating standards for licensed Safe Place partners. The discussion will cover licensing expectations, training support, site involvement, outreach strategies, crisis response protocols, and reporting requirements.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in small group discussions to explore challenges, share insights, and identify practical solutions for strengthening their Safe Place programs. This session is designed for those new to Safe Place or individuals who have never received a formal program overview.

Presenter: [Tammy L. Hopper, National Safe Place Network](#)

Fantasia C/D

**Inclusion or Integration: Being at the Table is Not Enough.
Do You Hear Me?**

This session challenges participants to move beyond integration and embrace true inclusion when working with youth and young adults who have lived experiences of homelessness. Attendees will explore the distinctions between integration and inclusion, examining how each concept impacts service delivery, engagement, and outcomes.

Through interactive discussions and case studies, participants will evaluate their current practices, identify barriers to meaningful inclusion, and develop strategies to create environments where youth feel valued, heard, and authentically engaged. This session is designed for those committed to ensuring youth voices are not just present but truly influencing decisions and shaping solutions.

Presenters: [Christian Gozé](#) and YAB member, Homeless Services Network of Central Florida

Fantasia E/F

Making Program Decisions that Encourage Healthy Futures

How can we use our understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to create healthier futures for youth? This session will examine the long-term health impacts of childhood trauma and provide meaningful recommendations for improving outcomes for young people served by shelters, housing programs, and outreach services.

Attendees will explore the connection between ACEs and adult health, gaining insight into how trauma-informed program decisions can support healing, resilience, and long-term well-being. Practical strategies will be shared to help organizations enhance their services in ways that prioritize youth health and future stability.

Presenter: [Sheryl Recinos, MD](#)

Sorcerer's Apprentice 2

Sprinkle Pixie Dust on Your Story-telling

This engaging session empowers agencies to enhance their marketing and engagement strategies through the power of storytelling. While it's easy to explain program basics, true community connection happens through authentic, impactful stories about the individuals served. Led by an energetic facilitator, this workshop will introduce effective narrative techniques, designed to build emotional connections with key stakeholders, including referral sources, donors, volunteers, and potential employees. Participants will explore how storytelling can be used to inspire action, strengthen outreach, and drive support for their mission.

Through interactive activities, attendees will develop one to two compelling stories to bring back to their organizations and learn practical strategies for incorporating storytelling into recruitment, community engagement, and donor relations. This session fosters collaboration, creativity, and confidence, equipping participants with the tools to inspire and mobilize their communities in support of youth in need.

Presenter: [Sarah Roethlinger, Youth Focus](#)

Sorcerer's Apprentice 3

Collective Transformation: Prevention and Collaboration for At-Risk Families in Florida

For over 40 years, the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services has supported at-risk families through prevention-based strategies. This workshop highlights Stop Now and Plan (SNAP), an evidence-based, trauma-informed, gender-specific Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) approach designed to slow decision-making and promote safety, stability, and connection through skill-building and early intervention.

Participants will gain an understanding of the SNAP program, the risks faced by vulnerable families, and the importance of early risk identification. The session will explore how shifting the focus from intervention to prevention helps divert youth from negative pathways while enhancing long-term stability through community collaboration and engagement. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for applying CBT techniques, insights on how cross-sector collaboration can reduce vulnerability and systemic costs, and real-world examples of evidence-based models being successfully implemented at community, county, and state levels.

Presenter: [Lauren Maldonado](#) and [Che Latchford](#), Florida Network of Youth and Family Services

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tool Time and Reverse Site Visits

Fantasia H

Back by popular demand, this dynamic session highlights quality, innovative, and relevant programming in an interactive poster display format. Designed to foster informal sharing of experience, expertise, and lessons learned, this session allows participants to explore promising and best practices from organizations across the field. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit various presenters, ask questions, and gather fresh ideas to enhance their own programs. Additionally, select local agencies will showcase highlights of their services, offering valuable insights into community-based approaches. Whether you're looking for new tools, creative solutions, or innovative strategies, this session is your chance to discover resources that can strengthen your work with youth and families.

Day Two Networking and Notes

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THURSDAY, JULY 24

8:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

East Registration Desk

Focus 2025 Information Center Open

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Fantasia G

Policy Breakfast: “Wake up to Change”

Start the morning with insight, inspiration, and advocacy at the Policy Breakfast: “Wake Up to Change.” Over breakfast, attendees will engage in a dynamic discussion on policy initiatives and legislative efforts that impact youth experiencing homelessness and instability.

This session will explore the current policy landscape, pressing challenges, and opportunities to drive meaningful change. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of advocacy strategies, policy priorities, and the role that service providers, community leaders, and allies can play in shaping policies that protect and uplift vulnerable youth.

This session offers the chance to connect, learn, and energize efforts toward policy-driven solutions that create a brighter, more stable future for youth and families.

Speaker: [Darla Bardine, National Network for Youth](#)

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Fantasia G

Closing Session “Wayfinding”



Wayfinding is the process of navigating toward a destination, understanding where you are, where you want to go, and how to get there. This interactive session serves as the perfect way to close Focus 2025, bringing together the experiences, insights, and connections made throughout the conference in a meaningful reflection and celebration of the work you do and the impact you make.

Be part of the excitement as teams present their final Runaway Games presentations, leading up to the selection of this year’s winner. Whether you are heading home or to explore the magic of the parks, this is your final opportunity to connect, reflect, and leave inspired.

Presenters: [Laurie Padilla](#) and [Tammy L. Hopper](#), National Safe Place Network

Day Three Networking and Notes

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NSPN Board of Directors



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Papa Johns International



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Wisconsin Assoc. for Homeless and Runaway Services



Curtis Joe, Advisory Board Representative
Sea Haven



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National Association of Convenience Stores



Rick Nord
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YMCA Safe Place Services

Judith Clark

Hawaii Youth Services Network

Valerie Douglas

The Center for Youth

Sydney Foster

Immerse Arkansas

Arash Ghafoori

Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth

Samantha Gillis

National Runaway Safeline

Melinda Giovengo

Victory Programs

Amiyah Hawkins

Y-NOW

Tibby Milne

Utah Council for Crime Prevention

Kelsey Mosley

Haven House Services

David Mount

Seton Youth Shelters

Brigitt Nasby

IN Youth Services Association

Chelsea Parker

Safe Harbor Children's Center

Elizabeth Sanchez

Prevail

Jamie Snyder

Our Family Services

Erin Strohbehn

Youth in Need

Soutdaly Sysavath

Wichita Children's Home

Bryan Thompson

Cocoon House

David Vance

Law Enforcement

Lyric Wardlow

Ending Community Homelessness Texas

Focus 2025 is Brought to You By National Safe Place Network

National Safe Place Network (NSPN) is committed to ensuring an effective system of response for youth in crisis through public and private partnerships at local, state, and national levels. NSPN advances this mission through its nationally recognized programs: NSPN Membership and Safe Place.

NSPN works alongside organizations to provide training, technical assistance, and capacity building, helping to strengthen programs and enhance the culture and climate within agencies serving youth and families. To learn how NSPN can support your team in ensuring safety for all youth in crisis, visit www.nspnetwork.org, email info@nspnetwork.org, or call (502) 635-3660.

Your needs. Your network. Together we can!

About NSPN Programs



NSPN Membership

NSPN offers customized member services designed to meet the unique needs of each community and organization. Since 1977, NSPN has provided high-quality support to youth service organizations and their staff through organizational and professional development, on-site and online training, and capacity-building resources.

What sets NSPN Membership apart is its commitment to true partnership, built

on integrity, trust, and ethical collaboration with each member. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, NSPN works alongside organizations to create tailored plans that address specific needs while fostering opportunities to share knowledge, expertise, and best practices within the network. The relationships formed through NSPN Membership are rooted in care, respect, and a shared dedication to strengthening services for youth and families.

NSPN's motto, "Together We Can," is the driving force behind its work to support youth, families, and communities in collaboration with organizations like yours. Learn more about NSPN membership services at www.nspnetwork.org/organizational-membership.



Safe Place®

Safe Place® is a national outreach and prevention program providing immediate help and safety for youth in crisis. This community-based initiative partners with more than 20,000 businesses and locations—including restaurants, convenience stores, fire stations, public buses, and libraries—to serve as Safe Place sites. These locations display the recognizable Safe Place sign and connect youth with critical resources and support.

As part of the Safe Place program, TXT 4 HELP provides a nationwide, 24-hour text-for-support service for youth facing abuse, bullying, family problems, depression, suicidal thoughts, and more. Youth can text "SAFE" to 4HELP (44357) to locate the nearest Safe Place or reply with '2chat' to connect with a master's-level mental health professional for one-on-one, real-time support. TXT 4 HELP is available 24/7/365, ensuring young people can reach out for confidential support whenever they need it.

To learn more or bring Safe Place to your community, visit www.nationalsafeplace.org.

