



kids brain | santé du cerveau
health+ | des enfants +

KBH+ CONFERENCE 2026

From Evidence to Everywhere: Scaling and Sustaining Innovations for Kids

OCTOBER 18-21 • CALGARY

Call for Abstracts Guidelines



About the Conference

Since its founding in 2009, Kids Brain Health Network (KBH+) has played a national leadership role in moving research and innovation into real-world practice for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDDs) and their families. KBH+ works to scale and spread evidence-based solutions so that effective innovations reach the children and families who need them most.

The 2026 KBH+ Conference will bring together researchers, clinicians, educators, community organizations, people with lived experience, innovators, funders, and policymakers to accelerate the adoption, spread, and sustainability of proven solutions across Canada.

With the theme “From Evidence to Everywhere,” the conference is a call to action: How do we ensure that early identification, effective interventions, and family supports are implemented at scale—equitably, sustainably, and in ways that reflect what families need in real life?

Conference Structure: Three-Day Impact Arc

DAY 1: WHAT works? Evidence Ready for Scale: Highlight innovations and approaches with demonstrated impact and a clear pathway to broader reach.

·Day 2: **HOW** do we scale? Implementation, Infrastructure & Cross-System Adoption: Focus on the practical conditions needed for scale and sustainability (workforce, funding, data, partnerships, and equity).

·Day 3: **NOW** what? Commitments & a National Scale Agenda: Identify shared priorities and launch partnerships and working groups that extend impact beyond the conference.

KBH+ Core Priorities

1) Early Identification

Identifying neurodevelopmental differences early enables timelier and more effective supports. KBH+ supports initiatives that shift detection and diagnosis earlier, including in infancy and early childhood.

2) Effective Interventions

Even when interventions exist, delays and barriers prevent many children from receiving them. KBH+ invests in strategies and partnerships to ensure that evidence-based interventions are accessible, adopted, and sustained.

3) Family Supports

Families raising children with NDDs face unique and ongoing challenges. KBH+ collaborates with people with lived experience and service providers to develop, scale, and spread family supports that strengthen wellbeing, inclusion, navigation, and access.

Cross-Cutting Conference Imperative

Across all priorities, KBH+ emphasizes that impact comes from reach. Discoveries that are not adopted at scale remain limited in their value. All proposals must clearly address at least one of the following:

- Scale and spread strategy (beyond a single site or pilot)
- Implementation approach (what supports adoption in real-world settings)
- Sustainability plan (how it continues beyond initial funding)
- Equity and “everywhere” reach (rural/remote, underserved communities, culturally safe access)
- Responsible commercialization or partnership pathways (where relevant)

Strong submissions will clearly describe the “pathway to everywhere”—the people, systems, and conditions needed for adoption.

What We're Looking for in Proposals

- Cross-sector perspectives (e.g., health + education + community + policy)
- People with lived experience as presenters and/or partners
- Real-world relevance (implementation barriers, uptake challenges, scale strategy)
- Evidence of impact and a clear description of what is needed next to scale
- Equity and reach (“everywhere” lens)
- Actionable learning that participants can apply in practice, systems, or policy

Types of Proposals

- Concurrent Sessions (90 minutes OR 45 minutes)
- Individual Oral Presentations
- Poster Presentations

Concurrent Sessions (45 or 90 minutes)

Concurrent sessions will run throughout Days 1 and 2 and should support the conference arc (WHAT works / HOW to scale). To increase flexibility, accessibility, and audience engagement, KBH+ will accept two concurrent session lengths:

- Option A: Full 90-minute session
- Option B: 45-minute session

Note: If you submit a 45-minute session, the program committee may pair your session with another complementary 45-minute session within the same track and theme.

Concurrent Session Formats

Symposium (3-5 speakers):

- Coordinated presentations on a shared topic featuring complementary perspectives (e.g., research + practice + policy + lived experience).
- Should demonstrate evidence/outcomes, implementation approach, scale/spread pathway, and implications for families and systems.

Panel Discussion (3-5 panelists):

- Moderated discussion featuring multi-sector perspectives.
- Should focus on adoption challenges, implementation barriers/solutions, sustainability, and equity.

Workshop:

- Interactive, applied sessions focused on tools, skills, or practical strategies that enable scale and spread.
- Workshops should prioritize participation over presentation.

Workshops and applied sessions are strongly encouraged to support broad engagement and practical learning across audiences.

Choosing 90 vs 45 Minutes (Guidance for Submitters)

Choose a 90-minute session if your topic requires:

- Multiple perspectives across sectors (e.g., research + system leader + family partner + policy)
- Deeper audience engagement (hands-on activity or implementation planning)
- Comparative examples across regions, populations, or systems
- Extended Q&A and group dialogue

Choose a 45-minute session if your session is:

- Focused and single-topic
- Best delivered as a high-impact deep dive
- A practical tool demonstration or case study
- A community-led model or family-led session
- An implementation story with clear lessons learned
- A training micro-workshop (skills-based and applied)

What to Submit: Concurrent Session Proposal Requirements

- Session Length (required): 90 minutes OR 45 minutes
- Session Title (max 20 words)
- Session Format: Symposium / Panel Discussion / Workshop
- Session Abstract (max 300 words): purpose, alignment, intended audiences, key messages, and “Pathway to Everywhere” statement
- Session Plan/Agenda (required; max 250 words OR bullet agenda with timing)
- Engagement Strategy (required; max 150 words)
- Presenter Information (for each presenter/panelist): name, affiliation, role, sector, province/region, confirmation status
- Lived Experience and Partnership Description (required; max 200 words)
- Diversity Statement (max 300 words)
- Budget & Justification (if requesting support)

Poster Presentations

Poster sessions offer opportunities to share emerging evidence, implementation learning, partnership models, and innovations in progress.

What to Submit: Poster Abstract Requirements (max 250 words)

- Title (max 20 words)
- Abstract in English or French
- Use research or program/implementation structure as above (required headings)
- Declare all funding sources
- Multiple submissions permitted (each submitted separately)

Posters that highlight implementation learning, adoption outcomes, and equity impacts are strongly encouraged.

Individual Oral Presentations

Oral presentations are ideal for researchers, program leaders, trainees, and innovators to share outcomes and scale-ready learning. All oral presentations must include one clear “From Evidence to Everywhere” takeaway.

What to Submit: Oral Presentation Abstract Requirements (max 250 words)

For research abstracts (required headings):

- Background
- Purpose/Objectives
- Methods
- Results/Findings
- Implications for scale/spread/sustainability

For program/innovation/implementation abstracts (required headings):

- Background/Problem
- Description of the model/innovation
- Outcomes/Impact
- Implementation lessons learned
- Next steps to scale or sustain

Additional Required Field: “From Evidence to Everywhere” Takeaway

- Submit 1-2 sentences (max 60 words) describing what would be needed to spread, adopt, or sustain this work beyond a single site.

Suggested Topic Areas

EVIDENCE READY TO SCALE:

- Scalable tools and models for early identification
- Evidence-based interventions with readiness for spread
- Family-centred supports improving outcomes and access
- Innovations with multi-site implementation results

HOW TO SCALE

- Implementation science methods in real-world child health contexts
- Workforce capacity-building and training models
- Rural/remote scaling strategies
- Cross-system service navigation models
- Data infrastructure, shared metrics, and learning health systems
- Funding, procurement, and sustainability models
- Responsible commercialization and adoption partnerships

EQUITY + “EVERYWHERE” REACH (CROSS-CUTTING)

- Models improving access for underserved communities
- Culturally safe and community-led implementation
- Approaches that reduce caregiver burden and system fragmentation
- Policy/system redesign enabling spread and sustainability

Important Notes

- No commercial product promotion. Commercialization pathways may be included only if focused on access, adoption, implementation, and equity (not marketing)
- Submissions must align with the KBH+ mandate of scaling and spreading solutions for children with NDDs and their families.

Review Criteria

- Alignment with KBH+ priorities
- Strength of evidence and/or demonstrated outcomes
- Clarity and feasibility of scale/spread/implementation pathway
- Practical value for cross-sector audiences
- Equity and “everywhere” reach
- Meaningful involvement of lived experience and partnership
- Collaboration across disciplines/sectors and potential for impact

Key Dates

- Submission Deadline: Monday, April 13, 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: week of May 2026
- Conference Dates: October 18-21, 2026

Optional Add-On: “Pathway to Everywhere” Statement (Highly Recommended)

To strengthen alignment with the conference agenda, submitters are encouraged to include 1-2 sentences answering: “What would it take to take this work from evidence to everywhere within the next 2 years?”

Examples:

- We will describe how our model can be adopted across pediatric and school-based settings by standardizing training and embedding referral pathways.”
- We will share multi-site implementation outcomes and a sustainability plan, including workforce training and funding alignment.”