

LIGHTNING TALK GUIDELINES

FOR IHRFG CONFERENCE SESSIONS

A “lightning talk” is an opportunity to give a brief, dynamic presentation on a discrete, innovative strategy, approach, practice, or tool in human rights grantmaking.

- Lightning talks are lively lectures or demonstrations with a hard limit of **10 minutes**.
- Lightning talks are intended NOT to showcase your *organization*, but to make the case for your *strategy*.
- The aim is to inspire your grantmaker peers to learn more about your work. (You will not be able to reproduce your entire body of work in a mere 10 minutes.)

FORMAT

- Four lightning talks will comprise the mid-conference plenary session.
- Each talk will have 10 minutes from start to finish.
- After the fourth talk, presenters will take questions from the audience.
- A maximum of two presenters is recommended.

VISUAL AIDS

- Visual aids are optional but recommended. Powerpoint or Keynote presentations can, but are not required to, follow an Ignite-style format: 20 slides, with 15 seconds per slide.
- Keep slides simple, with little text and lots of large images.
- If you are not using a visual presentation, we will project the title of your talk and the name of the presenter(s).
- Additional tips for mounting Ignite talks can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

TIPS

- Pose a question to be answered or a position to be defended at the start of your talk.
- Explain the strategy/practice/tool fully: define jargon; provide context of its applicability; illustrate it with at least one example.
- Make the case for your grantmaking approach: How is it applicable to other program and issue areas? How does it address a need or fill a gap?
- Refer to the “how” of your approach: What main steps of implementation need to be followed? What circumstances need to be in place for it to work effectively?
- Explain existing or potential challenges with this approach, with ideas on how to overcome those challenges.
- Devise a title that is not only catchy and clever, but also somewhat descriptive of the strategy so the audience can get interested in advance.
- Include information about how peers can collaborate and learn more.