



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

12–13 NOVEMBER 2025

Community Development Conference

The University of the Free State (UFS), in partnership with the University of Johannesburg, the University of KwaZulu–Natal, and the University of the Western Cape, invites submissions for the **November 2025 Community Development Conference**, to be hosted at Golden Gate Hotel and Chalets, South Africa.

This national event forms a strategic lead-up to the 2026 National Community Development Conference and will highlight community voices, ethical practice, and collaborative pathways towards a professionalised community development sector.

Grounding the Future: Community voices and practice pathways for inclusive development

Sub-Themes

1. Local Practice, Global Relevance
2. Community Voices and Place-Based Knowledge
3. Reflections on Learning and Leadership in Practice
4. Ethics, Identity, and the Professionalisation Journey
5. Reimagining Knowledge Pathways (RPL, TVET, Indigenous Pedagogy)
6. Creative and Visual Expressions of Community Development

Important Dates

- Call opens: **25 August 2025**
- Abstract deadline: **25 September 2025**
- Notification of acceptance: **01 October 2025**
- Final payment submissions: **10 October 2025**
- Conference dates: **12–13 November 2025**

REGISTRATION LINK

<https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/ComDevConference2025>

Presentation Formats

We welcome diverse contributions, including academic papers, practice-led dialogues, case studies, visual or creative presentations, posters, panel discussions, and workshops. Contributors are encouraged to engage in storytelling, reflection, and innovative knowledge-sharing approaches.

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted by **25 September 2025**. Submissions must include a title, format, and a clear link to one or more sub-themes. Accepted participants will be invited to submit a full paper, workshop outline, or presentation material, depending on their chosen format.

Contact and Submission: For registration and abstracts, please visit <https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/ComDevConference2025>. For queries, send an email to cdconference2025@ufs.ac.za with the subject line: **CDP Conference Abstract Submission**.

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