



## Virtual Events

Virtual events have been happening for years, but thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic this platform has really blossomed. From meeting one-on-one to hosting an entire conference, the possibilities meeting virtually are broad. There are some drawbacks of course, here are some pointers for hosting successful virtual events.

### Types of Virtual Meetings

#### General meetings

- One-on-one to as large as you need!

#### Webinars

- Less conversational, presenting news or ideas to a group online.

#### Councils

- You can utilize “breakout” sessions with smaller groups of specific people.

#### Trainings

- Live or recorded. This can also use “breakout” sessions.

#### Conferences

- Pre-recorded, live, and a mix of possibilities!

#### Coffee Chats and/or Roundtable Discussions

- The most conversational, asking participants specific questions and facilitating discussions.

### Best practices

- The time you are offering your event may change who can attend.
  - Who is your event for?
  - What time of day and how long?
- Providing compensation for your event when asking families to attend will help boost participation.

### Considerations

- There is more than one way to connect to a virtual meeting depending on the hosting platform (i.e. link through an app, as a guest to the platform, as a call-in, etc.)
- Not everyone has flawless high-speed internet and that can cause some disruptions. Consider:
  - The area someone lives will play a huge part in their connection—rural areas often have connection issues.
  - Quality of video and/or sound can be affected.
  - Access to technology for underprivileged individuals may make it difficult or even impossible to join a virtual meeting.
- Not everyone tries to connect to a virtual meeting the same way (i.e. desktop computer, laptop, tablet, phone with app, phone with call-in number, etc.) and their method to connect can affect the way someone can engage.
- Be wary of hackers and “Zoombombing” (*note: Zoombombing is specific to the Zoom platform and refers to someone coming in and harassing the individuals on the call, often in an inappropriate way.*) Most platforms have security measures such as registration for events, passwords, and waiting rooms that should be utilized.