



NSP

Nonprofit Support Program

HARTFORD FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC GIVING

BOARD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Program Description

Fall 2019

Building and sustaining a healthy and vibrant board can help your organization thrive, especially in these challenging times. This program is designed to help nonprofit organizations strengthen their boards' effectiveness and performance in the face of funding cutbacks, greater competition for charitable dollars, and increased scrutiny of nonprofit practices.

The Nonprofit Support Program (NSP) invites your organization to apply for the **2019 Board Leadership Program**. This program is designed to help executive directors/CEOs and boards to better understand and negotiate their respective roles and responsibilities, strengthen the board's ability to provide adequate resources and financial oversight for the organization, and become more effectively engaged in helping the organization to fulfill its mission.

This unique program will be provided to a group of up to 15 organizations that will be selected through an application process. The program consists of:

- Two required 4-hour evening workshops
- Two optional (but highly recommended) 4-hour evening workshops (*Board Chair-CEO Partnership, and Financial Oversight Role of the Board*)
- A targeted follow-up consultation with a consultant who will work one-on-one with your organization to improve your governance practices

There is no charge for participating in this program. However, it is a requirement that the executive director/CEO attend both the required workshop sessions along with: a) the board chair or board chair-elect, and b) at least two other board members, for a team of four. To ensure continuity between the two required workshops, it is important that the same individuals attend both sessions.

Your development director or a high level fundraising staffer may also attend, but their participation is not required.

The workshop leader for the first 2 sessions (Sept 26 and Oct 28) will be **Chuck Loring**, Senior Governance Associate for BoardSource. Mr. Loring is one of the leading national experts on board governance issues. The Nov 14 session on the financial role of the board will be led by **Gina McDonald**, CPA and Lead Consultant with Fiscal Management Associates (FMA).

The Dec 12 session on the Board Chair-CEO Partnership will be led by **Debra Hertz** of The Strategy Group, who is an expert in board development, strategy development and strategic alliances.

From previous program participants:

“This was the single best event in our experience. We received concrete implementable tools, providing a focus to go forward. We marched through some simple, incredibly effective changes.”

“Now we’re recruiting top-notch board members from industries we’re focused on. It’s all totally new for us – engagement, advocacy, etc. It all happened because of this program.”

1. WORKSHOP SESSIONS

The first 2 sessions are required. The 3rd and 4th sessions are optional (but highly encouraged). All sessions will take place in the evening in order to accommodate board member schedules.

Effective Governance

Thursday, September 26, 4:30 to 8:30 P.M.

Topics will include trends and issues facing nonprofits and boards, the board’s legal obligations and policy making role, effective committee structure, the board’s relationship to staff, and running strategic meetings.

Recruiting & Building an Effective Fundraising Board

Monday, October 28, 4:30 to 8:30 P.M.

Topics will include developing a system for strategic board recruitment and retention, and training board members to be effective fundraisers.

Strengthening the Board’s Financial Oversight Role

Thursday, November 14, 4:30 to 8:30 P.M.

This session will cover the board’s fiduciary oversight role in ensuring the financial health and sustainability of the organization, setting strategic financial direction, and distinguishing management’s financial role from that of the board.

Building an Effective Board Chair-CEO Partnership

Thursday, December 12, 4:30 to 8:30 P.M.

How to create a healthy and productive Board Chair-CEO partnership in order to provide leadership to the board, improve the effectiveness of the board, and enhance the success of the organization.

All 4 sessions will be highly interactive, and will allow participating organizations to assess their current performance, identify priority issues and begin setting goals.

2. CONSULTATION

The workshops will raise governance issues of particular interest to your organization. The free, optional follow-up consultation provides the opportunity to further discuss and address these issues with the help of a seasoned consultant. The goal is to help take your board to a new level of excellence by putting in place some of the practices discussed during the workshops. Each agency will have up to 35 hours of a consultant’s time, which will allow for significant improvements to your board’s strength and functioning.

If you are interested in applying for this program, you must submit a completed Board Leadership Program application along with e-mails/written commitments from all participants from your organization, indicating their commitment to attend the required sessions in their entirety. ***Your completed application must be received by August 27 at 5:00 PM. You will be notified of the selection results by September 9.***

If you have any questions, please contact Meher Shulman at 548-1888 x1047,
mshulman@hfg.org

We look forward to receiving your application!