



2026 Leadership Acceleration Program Application Information

The Leadership Acceleration Program (LAP), sponsored by Nonprofit Net, is a nine-month program designed to support nonprofit Executive Directors as they pursue an opportunity or a challenge that is important to their organization. LAP focuses on enhancing the confidence and leadership skills of organizational leaders as they take on an important organizational effort. Each participant works with an Executive Coach over the life of the program.

Up to eight participants will be accepted into the 2026/2027 program, based on the degree to which their proposed project meets program criteria and based on the commitment they demonstrate to do the work required to succeed.

To assist in preparing your online application, you are welcome to use this Word document for reference. However, *please complete the online application form* to apply for participation in the program.

Applications and all required documents must be received by **September 10, 2026**. Applications will be reviewed as they are received. The program will begin **October 15, 2026**.

Project or Opportunity Selection Criteria

Please consider the following criteria when proposing the project or opportunity that you wish to focus on during the program.

1. The project or opportunity is one of the two or three most important opportunities or challenges facing your organization. (Success is important to many people).
2. Executive Director engagement and leadership is essential.
3. Significant progress is possible within nine months.
4. Several people to many people must contribute to achieve success (i.e., Board, staff, external stakeholders - not just you).
5. Success will demand that you do things differently. It's not just business as usual.
6. It is a challenge that will require *you* to step out of your comfort zone.

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Required Application Information

The following information must be submitted as part of your application:

Section 1: Personal Details

1. First Name
2. Last Name
3. Title
4. Email
5. Phone
6. Organization Name
7. Organization Website
8. Organization Mission
9. Number of Staff
10. Annual Budget
11. Years in Executive Director Role
12. Do you have any plans to leave your position in the coming year?

Section 2: About Your Challenge

1. Why is the Leadership Acceleration Program of interest to you right now?
2. After careful review of the Performance Challenge Criteria, please describe the challenge you hope to pursue during this program, and how specifically, it aligns with these criteria.
3. What are the most important outcomes you seek to achieve? How will you measure success?
4. What do you envision will be the most significant obstacle you will face in addressing your challenge?

Section 3: Additional Information

1. This program requires a serious commitment of time, including bi-weekly coaching calls, four to five written assignments, and five meetings with the other participants to provide and receive feedback. Are you fully prepared to meet these commitments?
2. In addition to working with their coach, members work with each other to support the success of all participants. Are you prepared and willing to be an active and constructive participant in this group, including attendance at all Peer Group meetings?
3. If selected to participate, do you commit to cohort activities from October 2025 through June 2026, including group meetings which will be held on the following Thursday afternoons (three in person sessions and the rest virtual):
 - October 15, 2026
 - November 12, 2026
 - January 28, 2027
 - April 15, 2027
 - June 10, 2027
4. The following documents must be submitted as part of your application:
 - Your resume
 - A letter in support of your application from your Board Chair
 - A letter in support of your application from a professional peer

Note you can either submit these documents within the online application form or send them separately by email to margohkelly04@gmail.com.