



Leaders Circles®

Confidently Develop Nonprofit Leadership Skills in a Safe, Supportive Environment

What if every nonprofit leader had a trusted group of peers to coach them through their challenges, keep them focused on opportunities, support them in their professional development and hold them accountable for their actions?

ABOUT THE PROGRAM >

The Leaders Circles® program is a proven way to develop leadership strengths. Each group includes four to six nonprofit executives who are committed to meeting real-life challenges. Groups are confidential, supportive and focused on learning and action. A trained facilitator helps members leverage the group to effectively identify and meet their needs.

Circles - usually four to six people - meet monthly at a place of the group's choosing.

Each 2- to 3-hour session is managed by a professional facilitator and starts with a welcome and quick member updates. Each member then uses their 20-minute timeslot to present and, with the help of their Circle, explore their topic. Each presenter offers an overview of their issue and other members ask questions to help the presenter think more deeply, broadly and creatively to determine the best course of action. The facilitator keeps time, asks coaching questions and redirects the conversation if it veers too far from the goal. Before time is up, the facilitator asks each presenter to identify action steps to which they'll commit to advance their cause before the next meeting.

Leaders Circles are based on an internationally known process called action-learning. In partnership with Twin Cities-based MAP for Nonprofits, the Initiative Foundation brought this opportunity to Central Minnesota.

"TOP Leaders Circles is the one place I know I can go and the others 'get' what I am experiencing as a leader," one recent participant said. "This group gives me a setting to safely share issues and struggles with those who understand. The feedback and good questions help me think through an issue more thoroughly and allow me to come to my best solution more quickly."

For more information, contact:

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REQUIREMENTS >

Participants must serve in a nonprofit leadership role and come prepared to each monthly session with an issue of importance. Members are expected to ask powerful questions to help members find their own insights. Partners are expected to make these sessions a priority on their calendar.

How to Apply

Visit ifound.org and select Community > Nonprofit Programs and the Leaders Circles tab to complete the online registration form,

The program fee is \$300 for 12 monthly sessions. Limited scholarships are available.

Leaders Circles are made up of individuals who serve similar roles in their nonprofit organization (e.g., executive directors participate in one Circle while program-level staff engage in another Circle). Leaders Circles are formed whenever four to six peers express an interest and are in relatively close proximity to one another.

