



NEW HAMPSHIRE
CENTER
FOR NONPROFITS

Hoffman-Haas Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the Hoffman-Haas Fellowship?

The Hoffman-Haas Fellowship is one of the NH Center for Nonprofit's signature board governance training programs. It is designed to engage, prepare, and inspire participants to meet the increasing demand for 21st century board leaders.

Named after New Hampshire philanthropists and respected board members Tom Haas and John Hoffman, the program is designed to ensure that Hoffman-Haas Fellows are an asset to any nonprofit board they serve on. The program offers Fellows the skills, experience, and connections to advance their understanding of the strategic leadership needed for today's nonprofit boards. Through the program, Fellows are matched with experienced Mentors, gain exposure to presentations from nationally-recognized experts, and gain access to many online resources.

The core components of the program are:

Cohort Experience: Fellows will experience the program as part of a group of peers learning together. Fellows will be exposed to a diversity of experiences and perspective on the topics discussed in an open, respectful environment.

Educational Sessions: Interactive sessions featuring nationally recognized experts help Fellows explore the role of the board in fundraising, financial sustainability, governance, and more. These sessions are scheduled for late afternoon and include dinner to minimize the impact on everyone's busy schedules.

Mentorship: Throughout the program, Fellows will have opportunities to connect with mentors who will share their own experiences, answer questions, and provide guidance.

Reading & Additional Resources: Fellows will be provided with a variety of articles, videos, and other resources to supplement their learning.

Fellows will receive one year of membership with the NH Center for Nonprofits to support their continuing education and to join a growing network of Hoffman-Haas alumni. Membership includes discounted rates for Center programs and access to members-only resources.

Fellows

Hoffman-Haas Fellows are individuals with a strong desire to be effective civic leaders and to actively engage in issues which impact their community by applying their leadership, management, and strategic problem-solving skills to nonprofit board service. Fellows will have demonstrated leadership potential in their workplace or community and are interested in advancing these skills and deepening their knowledge base.

Fellows can expect to dedicate 20–25 hours over the course of the program, which includes attending scheduled sessions, having regular check-ins with Mentors, and making the time to review materials or to complete assignments as needed. Fellows are expected to:

- Attend all [regularly scheduled sessions](#) of the Fellowship and participate fully in discussions.
- Connect with Mentors outside of the scheduled sessions and to share comments, ask questions, and gain the experience and perspective of their Mentor on the topics discussed during the program.
- Review materials or complete assignments between sessions as needed.
- Help foster an open learning environment through careful listening, respectfully sharing opinions, and welcoming a diversity of thoughts.
- Share feedback about their experience in an evaluation at the end of the program. We use this evaluation data to improve the Fellowship and highlight its impact with funders and partners.

While the size of each cohort of the Hoffman-Haas Fellowship varies, a typical class consists of 15-20 Fellows.

How much does it cost?

There is a \$1,000 fee to participate as a Fellow. Scholarships are available.

How do I apply to become a Fellow?

The application is available online at NHNonprofits.org/HoffmanHaas. Application questions include an opportunity for you to describe your interest in the Fellowship, your past experiences with nonprofits, and what unique skills, experiences, or perspectives you would bring to a board. It also includes a place for you to upload any documents (resume, etc.) you think will help us to better evaluate your application.

The deadline to apply for the 2023 cohort is Friday, January 27.

Mentors

Mentors are experienced leaders who have served on nonprofit boards and are enthusiastic about sharing the lessons they've learned with future board leaders.

Mentors are grouped to form small teams with complimentary skills and experiences. Each team of Mentors is paired with a group of participating Fellows. Each team of mentors is assigned a group of participating Fellows and are expected to hold group mentoring sessions.

To ensure a rich and rewarding experience for both the Fellows and Mentors, we compare the information included in the Mentor questionnaire—background, board experience, skills, interests, etc.—with information from Fellows' applications in the matching process.

Altogether, Mentors can expect to dedicate 11–20 hours over the course of the program, which includes attending at least two of the five three-hour sessions and connecting with their Fellows in between sessions. Mentors are expected to:

- Attend the first session and the final session. We encourage Mentors to attend all of the educational sessions, which facilitates a shared learning experience with the Fellows.
- Connect with Fellows throughout the program, ideally between each session.
- Be open and supportive of Fellows, encouraging critical thinking and sharing their own experiences.
- Serve as an ambassador for both Fellows and the Fellowship in general. We encourage Mentors to make introductions to their nonprofit network and share the Hoffman-Haas Fellowship to others that may be interested.
- Share feedback about their experience in an evaluation at the end of the program. We use this evaluation data to improve the Fellowship and highlight its impact with funders and partners.

How can I become a Mentor?

The questionnaire is available online at NHNonprofits.org/HoffmanHaas. The questionnaire includes an opportunity for you to describe what unique skills, experience, or perspectives would make you a great mentor, what you find interesting or rewarding about board service, and details about your previous board service. It also includes a place for you to upload any documents (resume, etc.) you think will help us to better evaluate your application.

Spring 2023 Cohort Schedule

All sessions will be held in the Concord/Manchester area.

Date	Time	Description
January 27	-	Application Deadline
March 8	4:30–7:30 PM	Orientation & Introduction to Governance Presented by Alan Cantor
March 22	4:30–7:30 PM	Resource Development Presented by Alan Cantor
April 4	4:30–7:30 PM	Fiscal Strategy Presented by Steve Zimmerman
May 4	4:30–7:30 PM	Governance as Leadership Presented by Susan Meier
May 25	4:30–7:30 PM	Graduation & Closing Session
June 22	4:30–6:30 PM	Nonprofit Networking Event