



HOFFMAN-HAAS

FELLOWSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions

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 demand for 21st century board leaders.

Named after NH philanthropists and respected board members Tom Haas and John Hoffman, the program connects Fellows with experienced Mentors, presentations from nationally-recognized experts, and online resources to advance their understanding of the strategic leadership needed for today's nonprofit boards. The skills, experience, and connections gained through this program will ensure that Fellows are an asset to any nonprofit board they serve on.

The core components of the program are:

Cohort Experience: Fellows will experience the program as part of a group of peers learning together and 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 impact on everyone's busy schedules.

Mentorship: Throughout the program, Fellows will build on the topics discussed at the sessions by connecting with their mentor, who will share their own experiences, answer questions, and provide guidance.

Reading & Additional Resources: Fellows will also be provided with a copy of *The Source: Twelve Principles of Governance That Power Exceptional Boards* and a variety of articles, videos, and other resources to supplement their learning.

In addition to the core program, Fellows will receive one year of membership with the NH Center for Nonprofits to support their continuing education and join a growing network of Hoffman-Haas alumni, which includes occasional discounts and exclusive programs.

Fellows

Hoffman-Haas Fellows are individuals with a strong desire to be effective civic leaders and 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, check-ins with their Mentor, and time to review materials or complete assignments as needed. Fellows are expected to:

- Attend all regularly scheduled sessions of the Fellowship and participate fully in discussions.
- Regularly check-in with their Mentor 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 and an equal number of Mentors.

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. To complete the application, you'll need to explain what interests you about the Hoffman-Haas Fellowship, describe a rewarding nonprofit or volunteer experience, and share a copy of your resume.

The deadline to apply for the 2022 cohort is Friday, January 28.

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 paired with a participating Fellow and enrich the experience by encouraging Fellows to process what they learn during the program, discussing questions and issues that arise, and sharing the knowledge they have gained over decades of board service.

To ensure a rich and rewarding experience for both the Fellow and Mentor, we compare the information included in the Mentor questionnaire—background, board experience, skills, interests, and location—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 check-ins with their Fellow. Mentors are expected to:

- Attend the first “Opening Welcome” session and the graduation. We highly encourage Mentors to attend all of the educational sessions, which facilitates a shared learning experience with their Fellow.
- Be available for regular check-ins with their Fellow during the program, ideally between each session.
- Be open and supportive of their Fellow, encouraging critical thinking and sharing their own experiences.
- Serve as an ambassador for both their Fellow 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. To complete the questionnaire, you'll need to provide contact information for two references, share a copy of your resume, describe what you find interesting or rewarding about board service, provide details about your previous board service, and explain how you used your particular skills on boards.