



Impact Works Nonprofit Accelerator

Pilot Cohort Application

Impact Works is a 12-week nonprofit accelerator designed to help nonprofit organizations strengthen the systems, policies, practices, and leadership capacity behind their mission.

The program combines foundational principles, practical instruction, expert mentorship, guided application, and structured organizational deliverables.

The inaugural pilot cohort will be intentionally small, with approximately 3 to 4 organizations selected to participate.

There is no charge to participating organizations.

Participants will have access to RPNC expertise, mentors, program resources, and the Nonprofit Center of Excellence for appropriate meetings, work sessions, and collaboration.

Impact Works builds on foundational nonprofit knowledge. Completion of RPNC Nonprofit 101, or equivalent preparation, is strongly recommended.

What Participants Will Work Toward

Throughout the accelerator, participating organizations will examine and strengthen areas such as:

- Mission, vision, and strategic intent
- Governance and board structure
- Organizational policies and practices
- Financial management and sustainability
- Program design and measurable outcomes
- Fundraising and donor development
- Leadership and organizational capacity
- Evaluation and impact reporting
- Organizational readiness and accountability

The emphasis is on application.

Participants will not simply learn nonprofit principles. They will apply those principles to their own organizations and produce practical work that can continue to be developed after the program ends.

Who Should Apply

Impact Works is designed for nonprofit organizations that are ready to examine how they operate and willing to do the work required to strengthen their organization.

Early-Stage Organizations

Organizations that are preparing to launch or have recently begun operations and need to establish a strong organizational foundation.

Operational Organizations

Organizations already delivering programs or services that want to strengthen governance, financial practices, programs, fundraising, leadership, or organizational systems.

Both types of organizations are eligible.

The program meets organizations where they are while applying the same foundational principles of responsible nonprofit management.

Foundational Preparation

Completion of RPNC Nonprofit 101, or an approved equivalent, is strongly recommended.

Impact Works assumes participants understand basic nonprofit formation, board responsibilities, and general compliance concepts.

Organizations without Nonprofit 101 may request consideration based on equivalent experience.

Nonprofit 101 Status

- ☐ Completed RPNC Nonprofit 101
- ☐ Currently enrolled and will complete before the program begins
- ☐ Completed comparable nonprofit training
- ☐ Requesting consideration based on equivalent experience

If Requesting Consideration Based on Experience

Briefly describe the nonprofit leadership, governance, training, or operational experience that you believe prepares you to participate successfully in Impact Works.

Section 1

Organization Information

Organization Name: _____

Primary Contact: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

EIN, if assigned: _____

Year Founded or Anticipated Launch: _____

Organization Stage

- ☐ Early Stage / Planning
- ☐ Recently Launched
- ☐ Operational / Strengthening

Section 2

Mission and Strategic Direction

What is the primary problem you are trying to solve (1 sentence)

Mission Statement: _____

Vision Statement:(What do you want your community to look like because your organization exists?) – _____

Strategic Intent

What do you want your organization to accomplish over the next 2 to 3 years?

Section 3

Organizational Need

What is the most important organizational issue you want to strengthen through Impact Works?

Why is this issue important right now?

Why is this issue important right now?

What have you already done to address it?

What have you already done to address it?

Section 4

Leadership and Governance

List your current key leaders, including board members and staff where applicable.

[illegible]

What leadership strengths does your organization currently have?

What leadership or organizational capacity gaps do you need to address?

Do you currently have bylaws?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do you currently have an active board?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Board formation is in progress

Section 5

Financial and Operational Readiness

Do you currently have an operating budget?

☐ Yes

☐ No

What are your primary current or anticipated sources of funding?

What is your greatest financial or operational challenge?

Section 6

Programs and Impact

Describe your organization's current or planned programs and services.

What outcomes do you want to achieve during the next 12 months?

How do you currently measure, or plan to measure, whether your programs are working? _____

Section 7

Why Impact Works?

Why do you want to participate in the Impact Works Nonprofit Accelerator?

What specific areas of your organization do you most want to strengthen?

What would meaningful progress look like for your organization by the end of the 12 week program? _____

Section 8

Commitment

Impact Works requires active participation.

Participants are expected to:

- Attend scheduled instruction
- Participate in mentor and office hour opportunities
- Complete assigned work
- Develop organizational deliverables
- Complete learning journal and survey activities
- Participate in the Mid-Course Practice Pitch
- Participate in the Final Pitch / Showcase
- Apply the principles and tools to their own organization

Time Commitment

I understand that participation will require approximately 2 to 3 hours per week on average, with some weeks requiring additional time to complete organizational deliverables.

☐ Yes, I understand and can make this commitment.

Section 9

Attachments

Required

☐ Nonprofit 101 Certificate of Completion, if applicable

Recommended for Operational Organizations

☐ Current bylaws

☐ Current operating budget or financial overview

☐ Board list

☐ Organizational chart, if available

☐ Existing program or planning documents, if available

Participant Acknowledgment

- I understand that Impact Works is a nonprofit capacity building program designed to provide education, guidance, tools, and practical application.
- I understand that participation does not guarantee funding, certification, accreditation, or any specific external rating or designation.
- I agree to participate actively, complete assigned work, and apply the principles and tools presented through the program to my organization.

Applicant Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Application Review

Applications will be reviewed based on:

- Mission clarity
- Organizational need
- Leadership readiness
- Governance and operational awareness
- Understanding of programs and intended impact
- Commitment to the program
- Capacity to complete organizational deliverables
- Readiness to apply what is learned

Organizations at different stages will be considered using stage appropriate expectations.

Selected applicants may be invited to participate in a brief readiness interview before final selection.

Program Information

Program: Impact Works Nonprofit Accelerator

Cohort: Inaugural Pilot Cohort

Start Date: November 2, 2026

Duration: 12 weeks

Format: Remote

Cohort Size: Approximately 3 to 4 organizations

Cost: No charge