

## NCNG Community Champions Leadership Forum

The NCNG Community Champions Leadership Forum is a mix of NCNG-led learning, facilitation, and self-directed research. The team will work together to return learning to the field at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Learning will be centered around the United Philanthropy Forum’s 10 guided principles for rural grantmaking:

- 1 Elevate local voices
- 2 Build a truly inclusive table
- 3 Foster trust-based and reciprocal relationships
- 4 Recognize relationships that already exist
- 5 Grow locally controlled assets
- 6 Respect native sovereignty when working in tribal areas
- 7 Appropriately measure impact and change
- 8 Embed principles in the funders work, systems and culture
- 9 Recognize the contributions of immigrants and refugees
- 10 Build partnerships with the public sector

### Timeline and Time Commitment

This is a 12-month leadership and learning cohort for senior foundation staff or board.

<b>March 2023</b>	Applications accepted through March
<b>March 31, 2023</b>	Cohort finalized
<b>April—May 4, 2023</b>	Virtual learning sessions (mix of live and pre-recorded sessions)
<b>May 2023</b>	One virtual debrief
<b>June 2023</b>	In-person, facilitated conversation from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. in Burlington
<b>July—August 2023</b>	Research and planning
<b>September—December 2023</b>	Learning, session development, planning
<b>January—February 2024</b>	Finalize NCNG conference session and learning materials
<b>March 2024</b>	Present learning at NCNG Annual Meeting and Conference

## NCNG Community Champions Leadership Forum

Community champions identify:

- Gaps in understanding of rural NC and what it means to be an effective partner to rural communities
- Additional learning we need to do to lead the field
- What we should take from this work to build our collective understanding

NCNG will guide and support the cohort, and thanks to some grant funding from the United Philanthropy Forum, will have funds to provide:

- Travel stipends if needed
- Compensation to community partners & speakers

There is no cost to attend, but a commitment to the leadership cohort is required. As the second-half of the program will be driven by participants, we anticipate a fair amount of flexibility will be built in.

### Application Criteria

- Mid-level or senior foundation staff-programs, communications, operations, administrative, executive
- Trustees with at least 3 years' experience are welcome
- Willingness to learn and lead in the area of rural grantmaking  
*Note: You do not need to be an expert, but you can be! We aim to identify gaps in understanding together*
- Current NCNG member
- Commitment to equity and community-centered leadership.

**To apply, please answer the questions below in a page or two (max) and send it to Sarah Mann Willcox at [swillcox@ncgrantmakers.org](mailto:swillcox@ncgrantmakers.org) no later than March 28, 2023.**

- Name, title, and organization
- Years of experience in philanthropy
- Why does this leadership opportunity feel like a good fit for you?
- What do you hope to gain by participating?
- How can NC's philanthropic sector benefit from your participation?

### Other Important Information

Space in this leadership cohort is limited, and we are hoping to have a mix of leaders from different types, sizes, and locations of foundations. A foundation may send up to two people. By applying, we're assuming that you can join us in-person in Burlington on June 7th (barring any unforeseen circumstances, of course!)

NCNG staff will make final determinations about participation. Since this is a pilot program, we are not sure how many applications to expect, but hope to have a cohort of 12-18.

Not currently funding in rural NC? That doesn't mean that the learning, connecting, and leadership isn't extremely relevant. Whether this is a funding priority \*or not\* we hope this opportunity will be valuable.

Not sure whether to apply? Call Sarah Mann Willcox at (919) 810-3756.