

Board Fellows Program Overview

Net Impact is a community of more than 50,000 student and professional leaders creating positive social and environmental change in the workplace and the world.

The Board Fellows program places Net Impact Philadelphia members on local nonprofit boards for a nine-month* fellowship. Board Fellows become active participants on their nonprofit boards, attending board sessions and getting involved with committees and relevant projects under the mentorship of a current board member. In addition to regular board responsibilities, Board Fellows also work on a strategic project for the board and the nonprofit organization.

Why take on a Fellow? Nonprofits that participate:

- Gain new perspectives from smart, working professionals
- Receive quality assistance on projects requiring business skills and expertise
- Support the professional development of emerging and established business leaders who are interested in the nonprofit sector or community involvement
- Provide an opportunity to reach new networks through your Fellow
- Cultivate potential new donors and board members

Organizations are eligible to apply to Board Fellows if they have:

- Nonprofit (501(c)3) status
- An operating history of at least one year
- An annual budget of at least \$100,000
- A minimum of 3 active members of the Board of Directors
- Have a board member willing to serve as a mentor
- Board meetings that meet in person on a regular basis

Board Fellows typically take on a strategic project that lasts roughly three to nine months, and the expectation is that they will commit roughly 5-10 hours a month for the duration of their fellowship. Sample projects include:

- Analyzing fundraising efforts and donor sources
- Marketing and communications benchmarking
- Board evaluation and recruitment strategy

Each organization interested in applying to Board Fellows must designate a Board Liaison. Board Liaisons must be able to devote 2-5 hours per month to work related to their Board Fellow. The Liaison will be the person at the nonprofit who will work most closely with the Fellow, provide him/her with necessary information and provide mentorship support. This Liaison is key to managing the interaction and relationship between the Fellow and the nonprofit.

Nonprofits that apply are then matched with interested potential Fellows. Net Impact Philadelphia will screen and identify ideal candidates and provide those suggestions to the Board Liaison, who will then have final review of whether to accept the Board Fellow.

There is no cost associated with this program. If you are interested in applying for a Fellow, please fill out the Board Fellows application and send it to phillyboardfellows@gmail.com.

*As the Philadelphia chapter relaunches, the first program will run on an abbreviated schedule from January to June 2024. From then on, programs will run from September to May.