

Community Development Board Leadership Institute

*Strengthening Governance Across Cleveland's
Community Development Network*

Cleveland
Neighborhood
Progress



Overview

The Community Development Board Leadership Institute is designed to build stronger, more effective boards across Cleveland's CDC system. Through collective learning, board chairs and leaders will deepen their understanding of governance, strengthen leadership capacity, and develop strategies for long-term organizational sustainability.

Goals

- Strengthen nonprofit board leadership across the CDC system.
- Build alignment around governance best practices.
- Equip Executive Committee Members with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to guide their boards effectively.
- Create a cohort of peer leaders to share experiences and challenges.

Schedule

Kickoff: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 4pm
Session 1: Thursday, April 9 at 8am - 10am
Session 2: Thursday, May 14 at 8am - 10am
Session 3: Thursday, June 4 at 8am - 10am
Closing Session and Social: June 24 at 4pm

Format

Cohort Size: 10–12 CDC Board Chairs , Vice Chairs or Executive Committee Members

Application Deadline: December 31st, 2025

Curriculum

➤ Session 1: Foundations of Board Governance*

- Board roles & responsibilities (fiduciary & strategic)
- Oversight of CDC operations
- Effective board meetings and bylaw review
- Policies and procedures for effective governance
- Introduction to board structure and Committee Structure

➤ Session 2: Board Development & Engagement*

- Board terms, composition, and member matrix
- Recruitment strategy & membership pipeline
- Orientation and onboarding practices
- Oversight for the Executive Director

➤ Session 3: Fiscal Responsibility & Strategic Leadership*

- Fiscal oversight roles of the board
- Budgeting, financial planning, and cashflow management
- Audit oversight responsibilities
- Linking governance to long-term strategy
- Succession planning and leadership development

*This is an outline of session topics. We will be communicating with cohort members on needs/goals to ensure optimal value and engagement is met from the sessions.