



Executive Leadership Initiative

Overview

We want you to succeed. We know new executive directors face challenges – and we are creating a safe space where you can find support as you face those challenges. Foraker’s new Executive Leadership Initiative will assist executive directors who have been in their position for less than three years and want to take the next step in leading their organizations and increasing job satisfaction. Participants will enhance their professional skills and, even more important, will become part of a network of peers who support each other to build on their strengths and tackle their challenges of running a successful nonprofit.

This program is aimed at executive directors who have worked hard to learn their jobs and serve their organizations – and may now want additional knowledge, perspective, and support.

At the heart of the initiative is the value that comes from spending time with people who share your experiences – those who also are looking for that “breather” to reflect on their work so far, and to set new goals for themselves and their organizations. Mentors – among the most highly regarded nonprofit leaders in Alaska – will be part of the program and will help with professional and personal work plans and other methods of individual growth. In addition, you will be given priority for time with Foraker staff and consultants; their support and expertise will be “at your fingertips”.

The Executive Leader Initiative complements other Foraker programs you may already have taken – like the Certificate in Nonprofit Management, Catalyst for Nonprofit Excellence, executive mentoring, or our classes and facilitations. This unique experience focuses entirely on the new executive, providing the opportunity to explore your chosen career path.

Applicant Criteria

We will work with you at your own personal level of skill and accomplishment. At the same time, to assure you receive the greatest benefit from your experience, we ask that you:

- Are interested in working with an experienced mentor while exploring governance, leadership, financial management, or planning
- Are interested in working with a support network to achieve your personal and professional goals
- Are willing and able to make the financial and time commitments to complete the program

Program Schedule

Session	Frequency & Date	Location/Platform
Kick-off	February 15: 9am- 4pm February 16: 9am- 4pm * Board chair attends second day of kick-off	Anchorage
Small group check-ins	Monthly; dates TBD by small group	Teleconference
Mentor meetings	Monthly; dates TBD with mentor	Teleconference
Webinars	Every other month: the third Wednesday from 10:00 am-12:00 pm: April 18, June 20, August 15	AdobeConnect
Community classes	Unlimited access to Foraker's 2 hour community classes. See list of offerings on the Foraker calendar.	In – person/ AdobeConnect
Commencement	August 27: 9am- 4pm	Anchorage

Fee for the program is \$1,500 for Foraker Partners, or \$2,000 for all other participants.

If you believe this program will be valuable to you and that you can fully engage with others who are part of it, complete the application on the following pages. When you have finished, please email the application to Kate at krose@forakergroup.org. Note that the application poses several questions for you to answer on separate sheets of paper and calls for other documents to include in your packet.

Applications must be submitted by Friday, December 15, 2017. You will be notified by Friday, January 5, 2018 if you are accepted into the cohort. Space is limited, so unfortunately we won't be able to accommodate all applicants. Every attempt will be made to select a cohort that represents the diversity of the state.



Executive Leadership Initiative Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Employer _____

If you wish, please share with us how you identify yourself? (Race, culture, ethnicity) _____

Confirm by checking each box in the following list that you meet the criteria for this program.

- I am the executive director/CEO of my organization.
- I have been in this position three years or less. Please indicate how long you have been in your position _____
- I am willing to make the financial and time commitments necessary to complete the entire program.
- A board member from my organization (preferably the chair) will participate with me in the program

Where is your organization in the following developmental phases?

- We are a start-up – newly formed and establishing programs.
- We are stable – maintaining programs, operations, financially solvent.
- We are in transition – re-organizing, merging, expanding.
- We are struggling to survive.
- We are ending because we have accomplished our mission.

In what management skills do you feel most confident?

- Budget and finance
- Planning and evaluation
- Board development
- Marketing/Communication
- Resource development
- Human resources
- Organizational development
- Volunteer management



In which skills would you like to improve?

- Budget and finance
- Planning and evaluation
- Board development
- Marketing/Communication
- Resource development
- Human resources
- Organizational development
- Volunteer management

How will you finance your studies?*

- I will pay myself.
- My employer will pay.
- I will split the cost with my employer.

*Tuition for the full program is \$1,500 for Foraker Partners, or \$2,000 for all other participants. Please do not send your payment until you have been accepted into the cohort. If you have any questions, call Kate Rose at 907-743-1200, or email krose@forakergroup.org.

On a separate sheet of paper, answer each of the following questions:

- How will a program that provides peer support, skills and mentoring help you succeed?
- How will you and your board utilize this opportunity to strengthen the organization and your success?

Also, please include the following material in your application packet:

- A current resume to this application. Include your academic background, degrees held, volunteer experience in the nonprofit sector, and any board positions you have held.
- A letter from your board endorsing your application.

By completing this application you are indicating that you will be available for each course date, without exception. There are no opportunities to make up missed days. No refunds are provided.

Return this application via email to:

Kate Rose, Director of Communication & Education
krose@forakergroup.org