

Below you will find a list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Board Member Institute (BMI). If you have other questions, please contact Samantha Stankowicz, Chief Growth Officer, at sam@boardified.org.

Why should I participate in the Board Member Institute?

The program provides a safe and confidential space for board members to learn from and with one another. Through your participation, you will gain the vision, skills, and tools you need to lead and tackle the challenges facing your organization and your community.

The BMI serves as the only platform for board member networking in the Jewish community. With a growing network of more than 140 BMI Alumni representing close to 200 different local, national, and international organizations, you will connect with outstanding leaders from across North America. Upon completion of the program, you will also receive a Kellogg Nonprofit Executive Education Certificate and gain priority access to Boardified resources and services.

Who can participate?

Applications are open to active and potential board members who have served or intend to serve on boards of Jewish nonprofits. We accept applications from board members of all experience levels and types and sizes of organizations.

Nonprofit professionals who already serve or intend to serve on the board of a Jewish nonprofit are eligible to apply. However, the program will be focused on governance, roles and responsibilities of the board, and other relevant topics necessary for proper stewardship of nonprofits.

What are the components of the Board Member Institute?

Cohort 6 will feature:

- **11 virtual academic sessions*** with Kellogg faculty and expert practitioners in the field.
- **Regular Cohort Learning Groups** that will meet each session to discuss key takeaways and how to apply best practices. These are in addition to other breakout groups used by faculty!
- **Three 90-minute Affinity Group sessions.** Affinity Groups bring together 6-10 cohort members for sessions designed specifically around their leadership experiences. Led by a skilled facilitator with a background in the specific leadership context, these sessions provide skill development and space for leaders to explore challenges and opportunities unique to their board service.
- **Opportunities for one-on-one coaching** to focus on your leadership journey.

*If conditions allow, participants can choose to attend the final session virtually or in-person in Chicago.

How does this program differ from other academic/training programs that already exist in the non-Jewish sector?

We designed the BMI in 2017 based on in-depth insights of stakeholders in the U.S. nonprofit sector. To create a program that best meets the needs of the Jewish sector, we conducted a field assessment of the challenges of the sector and how to best help lay leaders address them. We then surveyed strategic

partners, senior professional staff, and board members of Jewish nonprofits to test and refine our findings before launching the BMI.

Since 2017, we have completed five cohorts of the BMI. Through our experience and research, we understand the unique challenges, opportunities, and aspects of working within the Jewish community and with Jewish organizations. We tailor our curriculum within the Jewish communal context and bring in top practitioners in the Jewish space to share their real-life experiences. The BMI provides volunteer leaders with a wide variety of experience from different programmatic backgrounds a space to learn from and with each other.

Is the program geared toward people with extensive or limited experience in the Jewish nonprofit sector?

Both. Through our curriculum, participants learn foundational best practices and innovative strategies in board leadership, as well as the newest and upcoming trends in the Jewish nonprofit sector. Consequently, the program is relevant for experienced candidates, but it is also appropriate for candidates with more limited previous experience.

How many people will be accepted to Cohort 6?

To create a diverse and intimate learning environment, we will accept up to 40 leaders to Cohort 6.

Is there a limit to how many board members you will take from any one organization?

While we have not set a maximum number of participants who may represent any one organization, our goal is to create a diverse cohort of participants with respect to levels of experience, organization type, and individual and organizational needs.

What is the length of the Board Member Institute?

The total program length is 9 months (October 2021 - May 2022):

Wednesday, October 6 5:00pm - 8:15pm CT	Wednesday, October 20 5:00pm - 8:15pm CT	Wednesday, November 10 5:00pm - 8:15pm CT	Wednesday, December 15 5:00pm - 8:15pm CT	December Affinity Group To be scheduled
Wednesday, January 12 5:00pm - 8:15pm CT	Wednesday, January 26 5:00pm - 8:15pm CT	Wednesday, February 16 5:00pm - 8:15pm CT	February Affinity Group To be scheduled	Monday, March 7 5:00pm - 8:15pm CT
Wednesday, March 30 5:00pm - 8:15pm CT	April Affinity Group To be scheduled	Wednesday, May 11 5:00pm - 8:15pm CT	Tuesday, May 24 10:00am - 4:00pm CT	

Will any of the program sessions be in person?

If conditions allow, participants can choose to attend the final session virtually or in-person in Chicago. Participants will be responsible for coordinating and paying for their travel to and from Chicago.

How much time do I need to dedicate to studies in between the sessions?

You will receive advance reading material prior to each session. Readings will include articles, case studies, or background for exercises that will be conducted during sessions.

Do I have to commit to attend every session?

The topic of every session is carefully selected and distilled to make sure the participants obtain a holistic picture, as well as practical skills and real-world applications of the subject matter. Faculty also build on material presented at previous sessions. Therefore, we strongly recommend attendance at every session to ensure that the participant is exposed to the complete scope of information.

Please note that to receive the Kellogg Certificate participants must attend at least 80% of the sessions.

What If I miss any of the sessions? Is there a way to catch up?

Every participant will receive a full set of learning materials and speakers' presentations for each session to be able to catch up in the event of a conflict. Due to the sensitive discussions that take place, **we do not record academic sessions or affinity group meetings.**

Are program sessions recorded?

To maintain the safe and confidential dynamic of our learning environment, we do NOT record academic sessions or affinity group meetings.

Who should I contact if I have issues or questions regarding my application?

Please direct any questions to Samantha Stankowicz, Chief Growth Officer, at sam@boardified.org.

How much is tuition for the program?

Thanks to the generosity of Boardified's donors, we are able to extend subsidized tuition of \$4,000 to all selected participants. The market value of the program is \$18,000 per participant.

Upon acceptance into the program, each participant is personally responsible for a \$1,000 tuition deposit to guarantee enrollment. The deposit is due no later than September 17.

The remaining \$3,000 can be paid personally by the participant or through external funders. Previous external funders have included participants' employers, organizations for which participants serve, and other private funding partners like federations and foundations. In some cases, the remaining tuition has been paid by some combination thereof.

If I need to cancel or terminate my participation early, can I receive a refund?

Once tuition is paid, it is nonrefundable.