

# Board Fellows



Board Fellows places Net Impact members on nonprofit boards for one-year fellowships. The program brings valuable business skills to nonprofits, while exposing Net Impact members to nonprofit management and governance in practice. In addition to regular board responsibilities, many fellows also work on strategic projects, which are determined in conversation with the Executive Director and Board Mentor.

## Net Impact members participate in Board Fellows to

- Gain tangible nonprofit management and board governance experience
- Develop their leadership skills through one-on-one work with their Board Mentor
- Bring a fresh perspective to a nonprofit board
- Develop and strengthen their relationships with organizations and individuals in their local nonprofit community

## Nonprofits participate in Board Fellows to

- Bring new perspectives into their organization
- Receive quality assistance on projects requiring business skills and expertise
- Support the development of emerging nonprofit leaders
- Engage the local business community in their organization's work through volunteer opportunities

## How do chapters run Board Fellows?

Chapters that run Board Fellows generally have a dedicated leader who organizes the program for their members. Their role is to build connections with local nonprofits, propose the opportunity to those organizations and market the program to their members. Once both nonprofit and member interests and aptitudes are collected, this leader matches the parties and facilitates introductions. The leader's role is to ensure that their members are matched appropriately with nonprofits, as well as to support both the nonprofit and member throughout the fellowship.

## Tips for success

- **Start early** – once you've decided to run this program, make use of the [Sample Board Fellows Applications](#) (for members and nonprofits) and start publicizing the program and collecting interest
- **Tap into your network** – partner with organizations you know and love. Your members, classmates, professors and colleagues are bound to have connections with local organizations
- **Aggregate the board timeframe for all organizations of interest** – No two nonprofits are identical, and many operate on different schedules for selecting new board members and making transitions. To ease the stress for yourself and future Board Fellows leaders, compile a list of all the nonprofits your chapter is interested in or already working with, and note the timing of their board selections and transitions.

## Get involved

To learn more about Board Fellows, visit the [Impact Programs](#) page on the Chapter Leader Portal. To get involved, please contact the Board Fellows leader for your local chapter, or email [service@netimpact.org](mailto:service@netimpact.org) to start running Board Fellows.