The Rustandy Center Nonprofit Network for Strategic Operations and Finance is an invitation-only program for nonprofit operations and finance professionals who are passionate about honing their organization’s impact through innovative business strategies. Operated by the Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, the program focuses on helping operations and finance leaders level up their skills to lead their organizations toward sustainable growth.

Participants will emerge from the months-long program with the practical tools and critical skills required to grow and sustain an effective, high-performing organization. In addition to the academic learning component, the program emphasizes building relationships within the cohort, leading to a strong network of peers that sustains beyond the end of the program. Nonprofits will benefit from strengthened financial management, strategic planning, and operational leadership.

The program is made possible by a generous donation from Carol Lee Levin and Jerry W. Levin, MBA ’68, and is led by Christina Hachikian, AB ’02, MBA ’08, Clinical Associate Professor of Strategic Management at Chicago Booth.

**COMMITMENTS: TIME AND RESOURCES**

The program is a combination of in-person and virtual learning beginning in December 2021. Participants will attend three, in-person sessions in December, March, and May (see below for specific dates) in Chicago.¹

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¹ We are closely monitoring safety and travel guidelines provided by the CDC and the City of Chicago, and we request adherence to COVID-19 travel restrictions and guidelines for on-campus/in-person programs. In-person programming will also adhere to Chicago Booth’s COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.
COMMITMENTS: TIME AND RESOURCES (CONTINUED)

The virtual content spans the length of the program and includes approximately eight to 10 hours per month of learning engagement. Participants must attend all in-person sessions, engage monthly in the virtual format, and dedicate time between sessions to work on their selected business challenge projects.

Similar programs at top business schools can cost more than $75,000. Through generous funding, the cost to organizations is highly subsidized. Participants will pay only a $1,000 enrollment fee, which covers the cost of all in-person and virtual classroom training. Participants are expected to cover their own travel and/or lodging expenses.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION

At this time, the program is by invitation only. Select nonprofits are encouraged to nominate their chief financial officer, chief operating officer, or other management-level individuals who are responsible for the finance and administration of the organization. Nominees who meet program eligibility requirements will receive an email invitation with a link to apply. Program faculty and leadership will select approximately 35 participants in October, and the program will launch in December 2021. For more information about nominating a candidate, please visit ChicagoBooth.edu/OpsFinanceNetwork.

Priority consideration will be given to candidates who fit the following profile:

- Director level or above in finance/operations (COO, CFO, director of finance, etc.)
- 10–15 years of professional experience
- 5+ years in a leadership role, with management responsibility
- Demonstrated commitment to the nonprofit sector
- Organizational budgets of $3–15 million

PROGRAM TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline for nominations</th>
<th>October 1, 2021</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participants and organizations notified</td>
<td>October 15, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>First in-person session (Chicago)</td>
<td>December 2–4, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second in-person session (Chicago)</td>
<td>March 10–12, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third in-person session (Chicago)</td>
<td>May 12–14, 2022</td>
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“This one-of-a-kind program brings together a cohort of executives focused solely on finance and operations. Taught by world-class Booth faculty, this format allows for skill sharing and in-depth discussions between peers, which will ultimately deliver a stronger impact back to their organizations—and to the sector as a whole.”

Christina Hachikian, Faculty Program Director of the Rustandy Center Strategic Operations Program, Founding Executive Director, Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation, Clinical Associate Professor of Strategic Management, University of Chicago Booth School of Business

ABOUT THE RUSTANDY CENTER FOR SOCIAL SECTOR INNOVATION

The Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation is the destination at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business for people committed to helping solve complex social and environmental problems. As Chicago Booth’s social impact hub, the Rustandy Center offers hands-on learning opportunities, supports innovative courses, and pursues research—all with the goal of developing people and practices with the potential to solve the world’s biggest challenges.

Connect with us:

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ChicagoBooth.edu/OpsFinanceNetwork