

Program FAQs – EIG Academy

What is the cost of the program?

All EIG Academy monthly programming is offered at no cost to participants. There are two potential costs to network organizations.

Potential Costs #1 to Network Organizations: *For those who choose to attend the in-person kickoff and orientation in Pittsburgh, NeighborWorks America will assume costs associated with registration, two nights of lodging, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and a welcome reception on Friday evening.*

The network organization will be responsible for:

- Round-trip travel (organizations may use dollars from their NeighborWorks Training Grant if they choose)
- Transportation to and from the airport or train station (if applicable)
- Meals beyond what is provided
- Travel incidentals (baggage fee, hotel housekeeping tips, etc.)
- Explaining the process for reimbursement to participants prior to the in-person weekend

For those who choose to attend one of the virtual kickoff and orientations, there are no hard costs to attend. We do recognize the very real costs of time and effort and encourage network organizations to help alleviate any barriers to participating in one of the 3-hour virtual sessions.

Potential Costs #2 to Network Organizations: Each participant needs access to a *device with audio and video* capability for the duration of the program. If a participant does not have access, network organizations are asked to help alleviate this barrier.

Who may apply?

EIG Academy is exclusively available to NeighborWorks America network organizations. This includes organizations that have and have not participated in previous Excellence in Governance programs. EIG Academy is open to (3) different board-related roles:

- **Board members:** Current board members, no matter their board role. We especially encourage board members newer to their role and those moving into a leadership role on the board to consider applying.
- **Chief executives:** CEOs, Executive Directors, COOs or other chief executives who work closely with the board are invited.
- **Board support staff:** Staff members who manage board communication, documentation, shared drive and work closely with the board chair and chief executive, and serve as liaison between committees.

How many people are required to apply from our organization?

While previous EIG programs required each organization to identify a team of participants, EIG Academy does NOT require minimum participation requirements. Instead we have identified maximum participant counts per organization, based on roles:

- Up to 3 board members
- 1 chief executive
- 1 board support staff member per network organization can apply

Organizations are NOT required to submit applications for each of the roles above.

What if we don't have an active 'board support staff person'?

We know that many organizations do not have a designated board support staff person. Board support staff applications should only be submitted by those who are actively and consistently serving in the capacities summarized under the above *who may apply* response.

What is the time commitment of the EIG Academy?

Participants in each EIG Academy audience are required to participate in 2 hours of scheduled programming each month. Outside of scheduled programming, participants should plan independent time for reading, reflection and action. Below is the breakdown of program time:

	Board Members	Chief Executives	Board Support Staff
Principle Seminars ; offered: 2nd Tuesdays, 12pm ET 2nd Wednesdays, 4pm ET	60 min	60 min	60 min
Board Peer Groups ; recurring time will be collectively determined by group members	60 min		
CEO Cohort ; recurring time will be collectively determined by group members		60 min	
Board Support Staff Cohort ; recurring time will be collectively determined by group members			60 min
Optional Office Hours with Governance Advisors	0-20 min		
Independent reading, reflection, action	Varies based on personal style and focus		

*Participants will also complete an online Principle Knowledge Check every 3 months. Completion time is anticipated at 10-20 minutes.

Is everything virtual except the kickoff and orientation meeting? If not, where would I need to travel and how frequently?

The program is virtual with an optional in-person kickoff and orientation in Pittsburgh August 8/23-8/25. Participants will have the option to attend in-person or join a virtual kickoff and orientation on Tuesday 8/20 at 2pm ET or Saturday 9/7 at 12pm ET.

If I cannot attend a Principle Seminar, can I view it later?

Yes. We know life happens. While we do encourage attending the live sessions, a recording of the Principle Seminars will be available after the live sessions are offered.

It looks like the Peer Group topics include both my board role and more of a personal connection to who I am. How should I prioritize these options?

Great question! There is no right or wrong group to pick. All groups will dig into the EIG Principles and governance concepts, but we also wanted to offer groups that recognized both the business and human sides of boards. Prioritize the groups which resonate with you most. After the first half of the program (May 2025), you will have the chance to select a different Peer Group or stay where you are for the second half of the program.

Is the application completed by the organization or by individuals?

Individuals should submit their own application.

Will everyone who applies get to participate in EIG Academy?

This first year of EIG Academy the program is capped at 110 participants. We anticipate more applications than openings for the 2024 cohort. For those not selected, we will maintain a waiting list should someone drop prior to the August kickoff and orientation. Individuals not selected for the 2024 cohort will be invited to reapply for the 2025 cohort.

Will there be another round of EIG Academy? If so, when?

EIG Academy plans to launch a second cohort in August 2025, with applications opening in the spring of 2025.