

The Nonprofit Leaders Forum brought together midlevel leaders at funded agencies for eight half-day sessions of peer learning, partner consultations, and coaching. Facilitated by Daniel Riemenschneider of Good Works Results LLC, the 2025 cohort united twelve agencies across Bloomingdale Township.

THE GAP THIS PROGRAM FILLS

Midlevel nonprofit leaders manage teams, serve vulnerable community members, and are accountable to executive leadership, often without a peer to think alongside at the same level. Professional development funding rarely reaches this tier. Structured peer learning opportunities are hard to find.

The forum was built to fill that gap.

- 1 Isolation in Decision-Making**
The weight of leadership decisions is significant, with limited opportunities for peer support and honest dialogue.
- 2 Limited Professional Development**
Leadership development funding rarely extends to non-executive staff, restricting access to growth.
- 3 Peer Collaboration**
Learning from peers at other agencies is valuable but not a top scheduling priority in most organizations.

2025 PARTNER AGENCIES

- Alive Center
- Advocate for 708
- Bloomingdale Township Youth Service Bureau
- DuPage County Health Department
- DuPage Health Coalition
- NEDFYS
- ICNA Relief
- Ray Graham Association
- Kids Matter
- Serenity House
- NAMI DuPage
- YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

A COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM FOR LEADERS

Program Design

Eight half-day Forums rotating across partner agency host sites. Leaders walk through the network, not just talk about it.

Each session included:

- Peer check-in and agency spotlights
- Structured partner consultations
- Practical skills topics
- Actionable goals and follow-through tracking

Designed for Midlevel Leaders

Program Directors, Clinical Managers, Operations Directors, and Program Managers serving funded agencies, leaders who hold the organization together and drive its capacity to serve the community.

"It's a privilege to be a part of the forum. I always leave with new ideas, feeling refreshed and ready to implement."

"My colleague comes back with ideas for how to move our goals forward with concrete ideas born out of the work of the cohort and coaching."

"I am not the only one struggling at work!"

"Connecting and learning from everyone has been invaluable."

PEER LEARNING & COACHING | MIDLEVEL LEADERS | COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCIES

12

Partner Agencies

8

half-day Forum Sessions

4.7/5

Avg. Program Satisfaction

9.1/10

Likelihood to Recommend

↑ WHERE LEADERS STARTED

Seeking connection, clarity, and peers who understood their work.

✓ WHERE THEY ENDED UP

Stronger networks, greater confidence, and specific growth they could name.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

GOAL 1 Building a Collaborative Network

The majority of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed they built a stronger peer network. The rotating host model brought leaders inside agencies they had driven past for years without knowing what was inside, named as the program's single highest-value feature.

GOAL 2 Expanding Resource Knowledge

Leaders surfaced and shared specific resources across eight sessions, including translation services, early childhood screening tools, referral sources for youth, workforce programs, and event venues agencies could use immediately. Two agencies collaborated on serving a student through connections formed in the forum.

GOAL 3 Leadership Capacity Building

Every leader who answered the year-end goal achievement question named a specific personal or professional growth outcome, including learning not to doubt themselves, speaking more confidently in public, and voicing concerns at work without fear of the outcome. The majority agreed professional development topics were relevant to their work.

WHAT THE FORUM MADE POSSIBLE

PEER SUPPORT

One leader worked through a staffing challenge in May and returned in August to share that three staff members had been hired in a single week, crediting the peer conversation as part of what helped her move forward.

NETWORK GROWTH

A third agency expanded into a new township through a partnership surfaced through the forum network.

RESOURCE GUIDE

The Community Resource Guide was developed and published as a tangible artifact of the forum's resource-sharing work, available at goodworksresults.com/guide.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"The most important aspect of the forum is gaining knowledge and skills from everyone and applying those lessons to my everyday work. I have gained more confidence and experience."

"Forum site visits helped me realize there were places I didn't know existed, even though I drove by them."

"A calling and sense of purpose are stronger, which keeps us in this work. We are helpers and we do not give up."

"This advisory forum is very well done and I applaud what you are creating and accomplishing."

LOOKING AHEAD, 2026

2026 Cohort Launched

The 2026 Nonprofit Leaders Forum launched immediately following the 2025 program year with twelve agencies enrolled:

- 5 new funded agencies joining for the first time
- 5 returning participants from 2025
- 7 new participants expanding the network
- Community Leaders Series added to the 2026 impact
- 500 Community Resource Guides printed and available at goodworksresults.com/guide

YEAR-END SURVEY RESULTS | 2025 COHORT

PEER NETWORK GROWTH

Majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed they built a stronger peer network through the program.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Majority agreed topics covered were relevant to their work, the strongest consensus rating across all survey categories.

LEADERSHIP GROWTH

All leaders who answered the goal achievement question named a specific personal or professional growth outcome.