

Community Impact Project Information & Requirements

About the Community Impact Project

A key component of our 10-month Signature Program experience is the Community Impact Project (CIP). Running alongside monthly program days, the CIP serves as a hands-on, practical component of the Signature Program curriculum where participants, working in small teams, collaborate with an organization engaged in community-focused efforts to complete a project that builds their capacity.

The CIP process allows participants to develop and apply their leadership strengths, enhance their team-building skills, and gain valuable experience working with a community-focused organization. Concurrently they will expand their knowledge of our community's environment and critical needs, preparing them for future roles in community trusteeship.

Each year, Leadership Columbus seeks to identify current needs of community-focused organizations through a "Request for Proposal" (RFP) process. Proposals received are reviewed and projects chosen.

Community Impact Project Timeline

- July 14, 2025 – [Request for Proposals opens](#)
 - Brief interviews with submitted projects will be conducted on a rolling basis
- August 15, 2025 – Proposals due
- September 5, 2025 – Selection decisions will be sent to agencies that submitted proposals
- September 18, 2025 – Participants will receive their project assignments at their Opening Retreat and will be instructed to establish initial contact with their organization partners by October 1, 2025.
- October 1, 2025-May 31, 2026 – Project work
- February 2026 – Each agency will conduct a mid-point check-in with Leadership Columbus to assess the project's progress.

Nonprofit Staff Commitment

30-40 hours over the course of the 10-month period.

Projects must:

- Address one identified and well-defined organizational challenge/need, something that could benefit from a team of “consultants” in solving; or a project/process or problem you have not yet been able to address due to lack of people and thought leadership resources. **Priority will be given to projects that are sustainable and will have a continued, lasting impact on the organization after the Community Impact Project process is complete.**
- Present an opportunity for team members to utilize and further develop leadership and project management skills such as planning, communications, organizing, evaluating, collaboration, resource development, etc.
- Provide the collaborating nonprofit agency/organization with an opportunity to build capacity to serve our community.

Before submitting your proposal, please note the following expectations of your organization in the process:

- The Signature Program project team members are volunteers who bring valuable expertise and leadership experience from a wide range of professional backgrounds. They should be engaged as strategic partners and thought leaders who can help assess challenges, explore solutions, and build capacity. They are not intended to serve as extra staff or “a pair of hands” for task-based or execution-heavy work.
- The agency/organization must be an active, collaborative partner in the project.
- The agency/organization must have an internal champion who is the point person for their project group. This person should be one who can make or obtain necessary decisions in a timely manner and dedicate the time needed to facilitate the project.
- There must be clearly defined staff roles versus group project member roles.
- Leadership Columbus welcomes projects from both faith-based and non-faith-based organizations but note that the project itself cannot be one that assumes or requires religious background.

If you have any questions about the Community Impact Project process of the Signature Program and/or the RFP process, please at info@leadershipcolumbus.org.