Becoming a Certified Board Candidate

What is Board Connections? How does it work?

Board Connections, a service from DANA, the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement, connects community professionals with nonprofits seeking board members. By providing details of your personal characteristics, skills, interests, and what drives you to serve on a nonprofit board, you'll help us identify the best possible board position match for you. Some of the first steps you'll take on our board journey include:

1) Complete your board candidate profile.
2) Become a Certified Board Candidate by completing our Board Member Essentials Course, available virtually.
3) We'll reach out to you when we receive a nonprofit board position that may be a good match for you. If you're interested, we'll connect you with the nonprofit organization.
4) After we connect you with your new nonprofit organization, DANA is here to provide ongoing support in the form of additional trainings, coaching and troubleshooting, networking opportunities, and the opportunity to provide feedback.

Am I a good candidate for board service?

There is no single set of skills or interests that best qualifies a candidate to serve on a nonprofit board; rather, boards flourish when comprised of a diverse array of members with different abilities and backgrounds. The most important qualifier for board service is that the candidate has an interest in giving back to the community, and a willingness to contribute time, talent, or treasure to a nonprofit organization. Any candidate who can contribute some combination of these three things can be considered for service on a nonprofit board.

As a Certified Board Candidate, you'll be asked to fully commit to your new role as a board meeting in your matched nonprofit organization. This will ensure the ideal experience for you as a board member, as well as ensuring that the match successfully drives the mission of the nonprofit. Some expectations of a Certified Board Candidate include:

Robust participation in board meetings;
Service on at least one board committee;
A near perfect meeting attendance record;
Adhering to board policies such as confidentiality and conflict of interest;
Active participation in fundraising efforts;
Leveraging one's skills and network to drive impact;
and completion of each elected term.

What is the cost to participate in Board Connections?

Prospective candidates can participate in Board Connections for as low as $300/candidate, with additional training and certification levels available. The Board Connections package includes a one-hour Board Member Essentials training course, our matching service with a nonprofit organization well-aligned with your skills, availability, and interests, and ongoing support throughout your first year of board service.

What's the first step?

We're always excited to hear from you if you have questions. Otherwise, the first step is to complete your candidate profile Here

Please reach out to Daniel Davis ddavis@delawarenonprofit.org if you need support!