

The Bridgespan Group's Nonprofit Development Program: Creating an Adaptive Plan

Overview

Grounded in Bridgespan's experience working with hundreds of nonprofits, Creating an Adaptive Plan is an online program to help organisations set their priorities, two-year vision and develop plans to get there amidst uncertainties. It integrates an equity lens for greatest impact.

How It Works

Participant teams meet for a kickoff and 4 workshops over 3 months. Before the workshop, team members prepare by completing online pre-work. Bridgespan coaches are there to help each team along the way.

The program includes:

- **Team workshops:** The team comes together as a group for 2 hours every 2 weeks to discuss key issues
- **Individual online lessons:** All team members gain access to our online platform and complete assignments before meeting as a team
- **Coaching support:** Bridgespan coaches check in with the participant team leads and CEO on a one-on-one basis and through project lead workshops, office hours, and cohort-wide events

How your team benefits

In team workshops for 2 hours every 2 weeks over 3 months, you and your leadership team will:

- Get clear on where your organisation wants to reach in terms of impact
- Agree on your organisation's top priorities to help reach that destination
- Develop an action plan to address areas of uncertainty
- Tailor practical tools and processes to more confidently make hard choices

Why do this work as an executive team?

We believe it is important for the leadership team to align on the priorities and vision of the organisation. Developing a plan to tackle uncertainties requires flexibility on the part of the executive team. Finally, equity in the organisation and its work demands commitment of all members to embed it as a value in the organisation.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I be confident that this content will be relevant for my organisation?

Over the last two decades, Bridgespan has helped hundreds of nonprofit organisations effectively address key leadership and strategic issues. We have developed our programs in collaboration with a diverse set of global organisations, nonprofit leaders, and sector experts.

Our time-tested tools and innovative learning approaches have helped clients get clear on their strategies, accelerate their impact, improve their decision-making confidence, and empower their teams to prioritise the work that matters most.

We have designed the module to ensure that it is impactful, actionable, and sustainable.

What commitment will I need to make?

Team members should be prepared to:

- Spend ~2-3 hour per week, for 3 months (depending on the program and your team's pace), doing self-study and pre-work
- Come together as a team every other week for ~2 hours to discuss key issues
- In addition, one of your team members will be designated as the Project Lead. Their time commitment will be an extra 12-15 hours over the full program (see below: "What is the Project Lead's role?")

Will my team and I have access to Bridgespan support?

We have carefully designed this program such that your Project Lead can help your team navigate the content, make critical decisions, and advance through the process without intensive direct support from Bridgespan. However, teams do have access to Bridgespan support along the way. Project Leads can access 1-on-1 coaching on behalf of their teams, and attend workshops to help them in the process. In addition, Bridgespan provides ongoing email support and is available for additional coaching as necessary.

What is the Project Lead role?

The Project Lead serves as the glue that holds this learning experience together. The Project Lead's time commitment will be an extra 12-15 hours over the full program. Responsibilities include:

- **Owning the process:** The Project Lead manages the work plan and meeting schedule for the project
- **Facilitating the conversation:** During team meetings, the Project Lead will help to facilitate conversation, ensuring that all voices are heard and helping the group move towards decisions (drawing upon our unique video facilitated Team Summit process).
- **Delivering results:** After team meetings, the Project Lead works closely with the ED/CEO/Co-Founder to translate decisions into action.