New Member
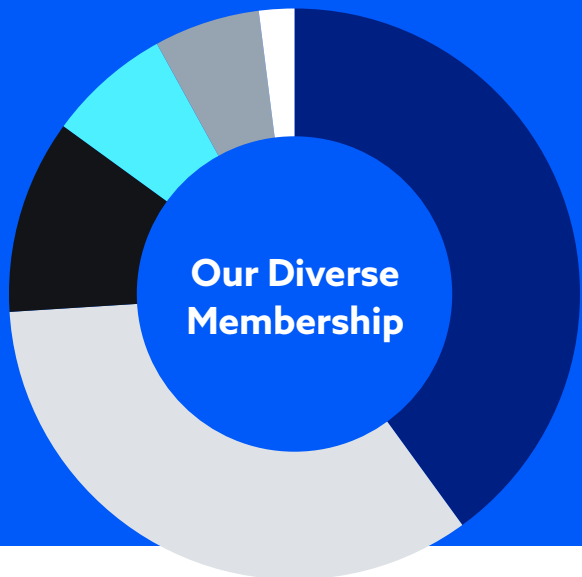# **Experience Guide**

A Membership Guide to support new
members of the Council on Foundations.

Membership at a Glance

Who are Council members? We celebrate the diversity of the Council community, which includes many types of members of different sizes from all 50 states and around the world.

Our Diverse Membership

- **45%** COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS
- **30%** PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS
- **9%** CORPORATE GRANTMAKERS
- **7%** PUBLIC GRANTMAKING CHARITIES
- **7%** ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
- **2%** NON-US FOUNDATIONS

Member Benefits

Council members — including staff, board members and volunteers — have access to exclusive member benefits and services including:

PHILANTHROPIC EXPERTISE

- Access more than 300 member-only resources – including recently updated sample documents, tips to start grantmaking in specific countries, communications toolkits and more.
- Connect with Council staff for support on issues impacting your organization.
- Access research and reports like our Grantmaker Salary & Benefits Report and our Study of Investment of Endowments for Private and Community Foundations as well as our topical reports each year.

LEGAL and OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

- Engage with our legal team and receive on-demand support for issues related to governance, fund management, scholarships, lobbying and political activity, self-dealing and more. Voting members only.
- Gain free access to our regularly updated Legal Compendium.
- Receive 1:1 support for implementing equity work through our DEI Discovery Sessions with the Council's Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Contribute to philanthropy's greater impact in Washington through advocacy and regular interactions with legislators.
- Learn about policy changes, such as the private foundation excise tax, DAF regulations and how changes to the tax code impact your foundation.
- Collaborate with Council staff to strengthen your ability to work with government officials and advocate to policymakers on the issues that matter most to you.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Submit ideas for sessions, present at conferences, participate in peer-reviews of upcoming publications, and volunteer as a faculty leader in our Community Foundation Excellence (CFE) courses.
- Opportunities to lead through our working groups and advisory groups, including our Public Policy Advisory Committee and Community Foundation Advisory Group.
- Vote and serve on the Council's Board of Directors.

NETWORKING and CONNECTING

- Engage with fellow philanthropic peers during in-person and virtual events, including Council webinars, trainings, peer events, conferences, and summits.
- Interact with industry peers online through our Philanthropy Exchange.
- Participate in a topic or role-based Peer Learning Circle.
- Join peer roundtables with members from community, private, and corporate foundations, CEOs and HR leaders, and staff implementing DEI programs.
- Utilize our online member directory to connect with industry peers.

SECTOR ISSUES and UPDATES

Stay in-the-know on opportunities and challenges shaping philanthropy via our website, social media, blog and member-only e-newsletters like:

- Council Connection - Latest news, announcements and updates from the Council and across the field;
- Washington Snapshot- A weekly look at what's happening in Washington related to philanthropic policy and news;
- Global Newsletter- An update on global philanthropy and grantmaking;
- Community Foundation Newsletter- An update on community foundation philanthropy

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Receive access and member-exclusive discounts to trainings and leadership cohorts, including Career Pathways.
- Gain free access to all live and recorded webinars.

SAVINGS and DISCOUNTS

Enjoy cost savings on professional development opportunities and resources, including:

- FREE access to the Legal Compendium
- FREE access to the annual Grantmaker Salary and Benefits Survey Report
- FREE access to all webinars + webinar archives
- $220 savings per Council Career Center job post
- 20% discount on print and/or digital subscription to The Foundation Review
- 20% discount on print and/or digital subscription to Alliance Magazine
- 10% discount on Council-endorsed Directors and Officers Insurance

Getting Started

These are the actions you can take to start using your Council membership.

CREATE USER ACCOUNTS

Each team member of your organization can take advantage of all member benefits by creating their own, unique user account. Individuals should head to cof.org and select 'Login.' They will then select 'Don't have an account?' to create their user account.

EXPLORE COF.ORG AND COUNCIL RESOURCES

Access publications, research, and members-only legal resources at cof.org/resources. With over 500 resources—over half of which are for members only—you might be surprised at the breath and depth of the information on cof.org.

REGISTER FOR AN EVENT OR LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Excited to participate in a Council convening? You can register yourself and/or member(s) of your team for our sector-wide convenings, summits, retreats, and webinars. View upcoming Council convenings at cof.org/events.

LOG INTO THE PHILANTHROPY EXCHANGE

The Philanthropy Exchange is a peer-to-peer platform that connects Council members through shared interests, topics or resources. On the Exchange you can:

- Connect with your peers around the globe to discuss topics of shared interest
- Search an online library of best practices and template documents
- Seek and give candid advice in a private community of your peers
- Find members funding similar issues or performing similar roles in your foundation
- Share resources to develop stronger relationships that advance your work All Council members have access to the Exchange.

Learn more about and getting started on the Philanthropy Exchange at cof.org/exchange. For troubleshooting or general questions, email the Membership Team at membership@cof.org.

DISPLAY YOUR MEMBER BADGE

Add the official member badge to your organization's website and/or social pages and show that as a Council member, you are part of a community committed to advancing the greater good with integrity. Download the badge at cof.org/badge.

ASK THE COUNCIL

Our team is an extension of yours and we encourage you to contact Council's staff - who have decades of experience supporting philanthropy – for help navigating thorny issues and maximizing new opportunities.

Questions related to governance, fund management, scholarships, lobbying and political activity, self- dealing and more connect with our Legal team at legal@cof.org. Any membership related questions, you can contact our Membership team at membership@cof.org. If you would like to share feedback on Council benefits or strategy, you can reach out to president@cof.org.

We also realize that our members and other philanthropy serving organizations have vast knowledge and expertise in specific areas related to philanthropy, so we are more than happy to connect you with the community and leaders in philanthropy who can best help you.

✦ Plus Membership for Community Foundations

Community foundation members who have a Plus Membership can access **CF Insights**, including:

- Unlimited access to our powerful community foundation peer benchmarking data tool for you and your colleagues.
- Customized benchmarking dashboards prepared by Council staff to share with your Board.
- 1-on-1 assistance to make sure you find the ideal peer group and contextualize the data to make more informed strategic decisions.

Learn more at cof.org/cfinsights or email cfinsights@cof.org.

"When I joined the Council in March of 2019, I did so with a vision for the future of philanthropy as a field that deeply values integrity, leans into collaboration and plays a critical role in strengthening civil society. The Council is committed to doing what we can to achieve this vision by representing the good work of philanthropy to the public and Capitol Hill, building community amongst our members, and advancing the professionalization of the field."

Kathleen Enright
President and CEO, Council on Foundations

About
the Council on Foundations

Our members are the backbone of our community and together we are committed to advancing the greater good. Building on our 75-year history, the Council supports over 900 member organizations in the United States and around the world to build trust in philanthropy, expand pathways to giving, engage broader perspectives and co-create solutions that will lead to a better future for all.

OUR VISION

Philanthropy is a trusted partner in advancing the greater good.

OUR MISSION

The Council on Foundations fosters an environment where philanthropy can thrive and cultivates a community of diverse and skilled philanthropic professionals and organizations who lead with integrity, serve as ethical stewards, and advocate for progress.

OUR CORE BELIEFS

The Council on Foundations believes in:

Philanthropy.
Philanthropy plays a critical role in strengthening diverse civil society and supporting communities where everyone thrives.

Community.
By fostering a community of philanthropic leaders who generously share knowledge and resources, build trusting relationships and engage in challenging conversations across difference, we can enhance the impact of grantmakers across the U.S. and around the world.

Integrity.
Public trust in philanthropy expands when our field demonstrates high professional and ethical standards, integrates perspectives from those most affected by our decisions and commits to continual learning.

Awareness.
A more robust understanding of philanthropy by policy makers and the public helps create the supportive policy environment needed to expand individual and institutional giving in the United States.

Collaboration.
We encourage and support multi-sector collaboration and partnerships as philanthropy works to address systemic issues.

Talent.
Philanthropic organizations are continually expanding their knowledge and understanding of how change happens. A diverse, empathetic and skilled workforce is essential to realize the full promise of philanthropy and keep pace with community needs.

Council on Foundations