



Fellowship FAQ

Who is eligible?

Nonprofit CEOs, Executive Directors and, CFO, COO level employees are eligible to apply. We have also accepted senior level staff that report directly to the CEO and have high level decision-making responsibilities. This is not an entry level program for staff that do not manage others (volunteer or staff).

How is this program different from the others?

The SVPSA Fellowship is designed as basic training for leaders who need practical tools and training for their work. Not every leader has five-star skills in every operational area. We structure the topics and workshops around constant surveys and feedback from nonprofit leaders by asking them what areas of expertise they need to round out their skill set. This program is intended to be a primer to the other fellowships in San Antonio.

We build in a lot of time for the nonprofits to collaborate and discuss shared experiences and help problem solve together. Fellows report they learn as much, if not more from each other as they do during the sessions.

Additionally, SVPSA sees this as the beginning of a relationship with the Fellows and their organizations. Our donor partners are dedicated to not only be available as experts during the program, but to be available to the fellows as much as their calendar allows. It is common for us to offer an additional workshop or personal help when there is a strategic or significant need of the Fellows. When a Fellow is selected for this program, our donor partners and network invest our energy in becoming champions of the Fellowship class.

What are the attendance requirements?

The Fellowship participants have consistently required of each other that all sessions should be attended with one absence if there is an emergency. Fellows should communicate with their board, staff and key donors that they have committed to the fellowship for these times and dates. We provide several breaks during each day and lunch. Lunch time includes a learning program so fellows should not accept lunch appointments, even on the phone.

Access to Catchafire

A key benefit of the SVPSA fellowship is all Fellows are provided an annual subscription and access to Catchafire.org, (a \$1200 cost). This is an online skilled volunteer portal that provides capacity building for nonprofit staff. The average value of savings for each nonprofit utilizing Catchafire is an additional \$8,300.

What are the dates of the sessions?

The Fellowship meets in person from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the second Wednesday of these months: September 14, October 12, November 9, 2022, also January 11, February 8, and concludes on March 8, 2023 with a party in the evening for celebration and recognizing completion. If there is inclement weather or emergency cancelation of a session, we hold April 12 as a 'alternate' date. We do not plan to offer any sessions virtually.

Where do the sessions meet?

The Fellowship sessions meet in nonprofit meeting space across Bexar County to ensure we are seeing all parts of our beautiful city. Sessions will all have quality AV setup, workshop tables, WIFI and plenty of space to socially distance, should there be a need.

Who are the presenters for the sessions?

Social Venture Partners lead the sessions, and we often subsidize the expertise in the room with our network of community leaders. SVPSA partners are many names you know, and some you don't including experts in nonprofit management and fundraising, corporate executives, business owners, c-suite professionals, and community icons.

Why does my Board Chair need to write a letter?

We know that when Fellows have the full support of their board, they are more likely to prioritize the learning experience and take full advantage of the opportunities provided. And, by elevating and recognizing staff development at the board level, we underscore the necessity of budgeting and investing in staff and contributing to organizational success.

How much is the cost, and are there scholarships?

The SVPSA Fellowship is subsidized by the donor partners of SVPSA so we only ask the Fellows to pay \$900 for the full program. If needed, we suggest that each Fellows pursue grants or apply for scholarships for professional development through local or national funders. SVPSA will allow payment plans in the form of two payments of \$450, with the first payment due the first day of the Fellowship on September 14, second payment due December 1, 2022.