



THE FORBES FUNDS

PITTSBURGH LEARNING CIRCLES FOR EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

The Forbes Funds, in partnership with the Leap Ambassadors Community, invites nonprofit leaders to submit a letter of interest to join in a one-year peer learning circle to accelerate your organization's journey to exemplary practice in a selected performance pillar.

What is the opportunity?

This program will introduce participants to an organizational learning and development framework- the Performance Imperative (PI) and the accompanying Performance Imperative Organizational Self-Assessment (PIOSA)- developed by the Leap Ambassadors Community.

Participants in this program will be provided with peer and professional support to advance their organizations along the path to exemplary practices of high performance, defined in the PI as "the ability to deliver-over a prolonged period of time-meaningful, measurable, and financially sustainable results for the people or causes the organization is in existence to serve." This is a peer-to-peer support model that will provide a participant with the experience of being mentored by one of the most successful nonprofit CEOs in the community.

The PI framework presents **seven pillars of performance** 1) courageous leadership, 2) people- focused management, 3) well-designed and well-implemented programs, 4) financial health and sustainability, 5) learning culture, 6) continuous improvement, and 7) external evaluation.

Participants will work to improve in one of three pillars included in this pilot. Peers will support each other, guided by a seasoned and accomplished mentor who will facilitate a monthly peer learning circle of leaders working on the same pillar. Each participant will also be paired with a Forbes Funds executive-in-residence who will be available to provide support throughout the program year.

For further questions about the opportunity, please contact Don Goughler at goughler@forbesfunds.org.

Who can apply?

This program is open to nonprofit social service and economic development agencies based in Allegheny County, which are currently at a scale from which they can drive a real performance difference. Interested agencies may apply to The Forbes Funds by submitting a statement describing how this opportunity could be used to build exemplary practice in at least one of the performance pillars described above. The deadline for submitting a letter of interest has been extended to **November 15**.



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Application Instructions

[Click here to go to the application.](#) The application system uses The Pittsburgh Foundation's online grant portal. If your organization already has an account with The Pittsburgh Foundation's site, you can use the same login information for this application. If not, please click **"Create New Account"** and fill out the required information.

Once your account has been created you can log in and click **"Apply"** on the top left side of the screen. Scroll down to find the application link called ***The Forbes Funds - Pittsburgh Learning Circles For Exemplary Practice***. Click Apply and then proceed in filling out and submitting the application.

If you are having technical difficulties with the application system please contact Jennifer Steinmetz, at steinmetzj@pghfdn.org or (412) 394-4272.

Who is leading this effort?

This effort is a partnership between **The Forbes Funds**, which focuses on strengthening the management capacity and impact of community nonprofits individually and collectively, and the **Leap Ambassadors Community**, a private community of over 150 nonprofit thought leaders, leading practitioners, progressive funders, policy makers, and instigators who believe that nonprofit "performance matters" and is integral to achieving real social impact. Learn more about the partners at www.forbesfunds.org and www.leapambassadors.org.