



PEAK Grantmaking's 2026 Workshop Menu

PEAK Grantmaking is pleased to offer the following workshop menu to our peer networks. These workshops are offered to advance our members' and partners' knowledge and skill in operationalizing equity-centered, values-driven grantmaking practices that align with our mission to transform philanthropy and advance the [Principles for Peak Grantmaking](#). The workshops will include interactive and engaging activities that feature PEAK staff and community members. The following workshop descriptions are included in this overview.

- Advancing Next Level Data-Sharing Practices in Philanthropy
- Data Visualization Tips and Tricks
- Elevating Your Public Speaking and Facilitation Skills for Grants Professionals
- Leveraging Our Strengths as a Grants Professional
- Leveling Up with PEAK's Grants Professional Competency Model
- Participatory Grantmaking How-To's
- Reframing Risk and Recalibrating Nonprofit Vetting and Assessment
- Rightsizing the Grantmaking Process
- Strategic Change Management for Grants Professionals
- The Power of Mentoring
- Using Data to Advocate for Your Compensation and Career Growth
- PEAK Grantmaking Membership Orientation
- New Member Coffee Hour

Practical Considerations for Developing Workshops with PEAK

- A variety of PEAK staff can present on the topics outlined. The staff assigned will depend on availability and the delivery method requested.
- Ideally, we request at least 10 weeks' advance notice to design and promote sessions with the coordinating group's leadership to meet your needs.
- The sessions can be tailored to 1.5–3 hours and offered in person or virtually. The depth of interaction, networking, and discussion will vary based on the timing and format chosen.
- See the [2026 Peer Network Important Dates Calendar](#) for additional events and workshops.

For more information on this workshop menu, please email Chapter Specialist Dionne Thompson at dionne@peakgrantmaking.org or Senior Community Engagement Manager Altinay Cortes at altinay@peakgrantmaking.org.

Full Workshop Descriptions

Advancing Next Level Data-Sharing Practices in Philanthropy	<p>Since launching Project Streamline, PEAK has championed a clear call: reduce nonprofit burden while still gathering the information funders need. Progress has been made, but grant applications still rely too heavily on repetitive data entry and outdated tax forms—an approach out of step today with best practices. In recent years, PEAK has taken a deeper look and found that lasting change requires a systemic shift—engaging funders, nonprofits, grants management systems, and data providers together. In partnership with Philanthropy Data Solutions, PEAK is introducing the Data Next-Level Practices (NLPs): a practical vision for reusing and sharing data more efficiently across the sector.</p> <p>During this workshop, participants will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• learn about the specific vision and framework of the NLPs for efficiently reusing and sharing data; and• identify practical ways to move beyond current burdensome applications toward adopting and championing data sharing strategies across the sector <p><i>PEAK Principles: Drive Equity, Narrow the Power Gap</i></p>
Data Visualization Tips and Tricks	<p>Grants professionals understand that effective data storytelling is vital for shaping grantmaking strategy, promoting equity, and showcasing impact. As the managers of a vast amount of data collected throughout the grant lifecycle, they are often responsible for organization that information into concise reports for senior leaders and boards. In this session, we'll discuss how to choose the right chart type, declutter visuals, and ensure accessibility through the proper use of colors and fonts.</p> <p>During this workshop, participants will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn the pros and cons of presenting data using various chart types;• Develop new tricks for decluttering visuals; and• Understand how to create charts and graphs that are on-brand, accessible, and intuitive. <p><i>PEAK Principles: Drive Equity, Learn, Share Evolve</i></p>
Elevating Your Public Speaking and Facilitation Skills for Grants Professionals	<p>Whether you're pitching a proposal, presenting to a board, or facilitating a community forum, your ability to communicate effectively can make or break your impact. This workshop will equip grants professionals with new insights on public speaking and facilitation strategies for leading dynamic conversations with diverse communities. We will delve into next level practices in meeting design and facilitation, and explore ways to create brave and respectful environments for open dialogue and collaboration.</p> <p>During this workshop, participants will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• learn how to craft compelling narratives, structure presentations using storytelling techniques, and tailor your message to resonate with different audiences;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand how to plan effective meetings, manage time efficiently, encourage participation, and guide discussions toward productive outcomes; and • learn how to create an authentic and courageous environment for open dialogue and collaboration. <p><i>PEAK Principles: Tie Practices to Values, Narrow the Power Gap</i></p>
<p>Leveling Up with PEAK’s Grants Professional Competency Model</p>	<p>The grantmaking landscape is constantly evolving, demanding new skills and expertise from grants professionals. This dynamic session will delve into PEAK Grantmaking’s newly updated <i>Grants Professional Competency Model</i> and the essential knowledge and skills for success in the sector, regardless of your role or tenure. The session will explore crucial areas like change management leadership, collaboration, staff and community engagement, communications, and provide an actionable roadmap for professional growth.</p> <p>During this workshop, participants will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the necessary skills and knowledge for success as a grants professional; • identify areas of strength and areas for professional growth; and • build community, learn from others, and get advice from seasoned grants professionals with varied lived experiences. <p><i>PEAK Principles: Learn, Share, Evolve</i></p>
<p>Leveraging Our Strengths as a Grants Professional</p>	<p>For a grants professional team to thrive, individuals must learn how to collaborate and communicate effectively. In this workshop, participants will develop greater insight on their own communication styles, their strengths, and how they may operate under stress. Participants will use effective negotiation practices to learn how to communicate across the organization and within their team.</p> <p>During this workshop, participants will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foster team connection as a foundation for deep, collaborative and leadership styles, competencies, strengths, and learning edges; • understand your own and one another’s communication and leadership styles, competencies, strengths, and learning edges; • build on strengths to work better together as a team; and • identify ways to best work and successfully communicate with team members across the organization. <p><i>PEAK Principles: Learn, Share, Evolve</i></p>
<p>Participatory Grantmaking How-Tos</p>	<p>More funders are considering participatory grantmaking as an important strategy for building more just, inclusive, and community-responsive programming. Join PEAK staff to explore critical steps for strategically building participatory grantmaking programs, from recruiting community board members with care, to considering the training and support provided that can authentically engage communities in grantmaking and set them up for success.</p>

	<p>During this workshop, participants will know how to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop and implement effective strategies for recruiting and establishing an authentic community board for participatory grantmaking; • determine and provide the appropriate level of support, training, and shared power necessary for community boards to thrive; and • design and facilitate inclusive and authentic participatory grantmaking processes that genuinely engage community board members and drive equitable outcomes. <p><i>PEAK Principles: Tie Practices to Values, Narrow the Power Gap</i></p>
<p>Reframing Risk and Recalibrating Nonprofit Vetting and Assessment</p>	<p>PEAK Grantmaking challenges funders to consider how they can become more responsive stewards of the various resources at their institution by developing more transparent and collaborative nonprofit vetting processes. This workshop is designed to support grants professionals in considering how to manage potential risks in the financial review and vetting processes and to better support a nonprofit’s financial resilience using an equity framework.</p> <p>During this workshop, participants will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn how to assess a nonprofit’s operations; • understand strategies for managing risk and allowing for greater flexibility in the review and decision-making processes; and • discover potential new strategies for recalibrating the nonprofit assessment process at their own institution. <p><i>PEAK Principles: Steward Responsively, Narrow the Power Gap</i></p>
<p>Rightsizing the Grantmaking Process</p>	<p>For decades, funders and nonprofit leaders have called for streamlining application and reporting processes, yet we know the amount of time nonprofits spend completing funders’ requirements is still too much in many cases. This workshop will explore how to simplify and reduce burdensome requirements across the grant lifecycle to support nonprofits’ capacity for impact.</p> <p>During this workshop, participants will know how to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and analyze burdensome application and reporting practices that hinder nonprofit capacity; and • develop actionable plans to overcome barriers to streamlining, leading to concrete process improvements and positive changes within your organization. <p><i>PEAK Principles: Tie Practices to Values, Narrow the Power Gap</i></p>
<p>Strategic Change Management for Grants Professionals</p>	<p>Grants management professionals are well-positioned to lead change management processes given their central role at funding institutions. Internally, they work with cross-functional leadership in a variety of ways, and externally they engage with grant partners and are well-versed in the various</p>

grantmaking processes and barriers limiting nonprofit partners in accessing support.

In this session, participants will explore key strategies for managing change, discussing the importance of utilizing feedback, data, and network mapping to create more effective and equitable grantmaking practices at their organization.

During this workshop, participants will

- understand what change means as a grants management professional and for the organization;
- learn strategies for navigating sources of resistance and fear; and
- gain new knowledge of how to utilize feedback, data and network mapping to influence effective change strategy development.

PEAK Principles: Learn, Share, Evolve

The Power of Mentoring

Inspired by PEAK Grantmaking's latest edition of the *Journal, The Superpowers of Grants Professionals*, this workshop will explore how to elevate your career and make a lasting impact through effective mentoring. The workshop is designed for individuals at all career stages who are interested in developing their mentoring skills, whether as a mentor or a mentee. We will delve into the essential qualities of successful mentor-mentee relationships, discuss strategies for building and sustaining those relationships, and the organizational benefits of hosting and encouraging mentorship opportunities.

During this workshop, participants will

- understand the key benefits of mentoring for both mentors and mentees;
- develop strategies for cultivating and sustaining meaningful mentoring relationships; and
- explore how mentoring can foster organizational growth and knowledge transfer.

PEAK Principles: Learn, Share, Evolve

Using Data to Advocate for Your Compensation and Career Growth

Join us for an insightful workshop exploring the latest trends in grantmaking compensation and benefits. Drawing on data from PEAK's *2023 Grants Professionals Salary Report*, we'll delve into key findings on compensation trends, benefits, and workplace practices based on data from over 1,000 organizations. We'll equip you with actionable strategies to make informed decisions about your career, advocate for your professional growth, and contribute to a more equitable future for the sector.

During this workshop, participants will

- understand current salary benchmarks, and learn how to identify career advancement opportunities and negotiate your worth;
- learn how to use data to drive equitable compensation practices within your organization and advocate for fair treatment across the sector; and

- learn how to apply data-driven insights to optimize hiring, retention and resource allocation practices.

PEAK Principles: Drive Equity, Tie Practices to Values