# Nonprofit Conversations

**Guides to support local conversations on a range of nonprofit topics**

*An initiative of Washington Nonprofits in partnership with volunteer speakers*

You seek opportunities to talk with your colleagues on the topics that most challenge you and your organization. It is hard to get to trainings, and there are only so many experts to go around. "Nonprofit Conversations" was created to give nonprofit networks and other communities of nonprofit people the resources they need to convene conversations that move their practice forward. They draw on the archived webinars that Washington Nonprofits produces each month.

## Goals

Nonprofit Conversations sets out to:

- Expand learning opportunities taking place outside classrooms.
- Strengthen peer connection when questions, success stories, and enduring challenges are tackled collaboratively.
- Grow the network so that people can reach out to each other after the meeting is over.

## Getting Ready

1. **SET MEETING**: Organize a time to get together with colleagues—or plug in to an existing nonprofit network meeting. Need a list of Washington nonprofit networks? Visit www.washingtonnonprofits.org/regions.
2. **CHOOSE TOPIC**: Choose a topic of interest. Our library is growing each month.
3. **DOWNLOAD WEBINAR**: Download the related webinar onto a laptop that you can bring to the meeting. Test the webinar in advance to make sure that it plays smoothly. We recommend that you don't play it directly from Vimeo since you may have unreliable Internet. *www.vimeo.com/washingtonnonprofits*
4. **THINK PROJECTION**: You will need to project the webinar somehow, either using a projector onto a screen or through a television.
5. **COPY HANDOUT**: We have created a discussion guide for you to share with participants. Make as many copies as you need.

## During the Meeting

- **ASSIGN A FACILITATOR**: They may be the organizer, or maybe there is someone else in the group who is good at making sure that everyone participates in the conversation. A great facilitator pushes questions to a deeper place, engages everyone in the room, and drives towards concrete action steps at the end of the meeting.
- **INTRODUCE YOURSELVES**: Take time at the beginning to have everyone introduce themself. They should share their name, organization/location, and something about the topic. This might be: a question, an idea that they want to share, a success story, or a tool or resource that has proven be particularly helpful.
- **WARM UP**: Start with the "key questions" at the top of the Discussion Guide to get a sense of what people are thinking on this topic.
- **LEAVE TIME FOR WRAP-UP**: After a great conversation, it is helpful to have your note-taker or someone else sum up the conversation. Pay particular attention to resources that people said that they need, either from each other or an outside source. There are two places to turn for any resources you need:
  *501 Commons: www.501commons.org; info@501commons.org*
  *Washington Nonprofits: www.washingtonnonprofits.org; nancy@washingtonnonprofits.org*

**Contact us for more information:** www.washingtonnonprofit.org/conversations
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