

Program FAQs – EIG Academy

What is the cost of the program?

Participation in EIG Academy is offered at no cost to participants. Each participant must have access to a *device with audio and video* capabilities for the duration of the program. If a participant does not have access, their network organization is expected to help alleviate this barrier.

What is the time commitment for EIG Academy?

During each **September to May ‘school year,’** participants in each EIG Academy audience are required to participate in (2) hours of scheduled programming each month.

Outside of scheduled programming, participants should plan independent time for reading, reflection* and action.** Below is the breakdown of program time:

(2) September-May ‘school years’ = 18 months	Board Members	Chief Executives	Board Support Staff	NeighborWorks Staff
Live Seminars; offered: 2nd Tuesdays, 12pm ET 2nd Wednesdays, 4pm ET	60 min	60 min	60 min	60 min
Board Peer Cohorts; recurring time during 3 rd week of month	60 min			
CEO Cohorts; recurring time during 3 rd week of month		60 min		
Board Support Staff Cohorts; recurring time during 3 rd week of month			60 min	
NeighborWorks Staff Cohorts; recurring time during 3 rd week of month				60 min
Office Hours with Governance Advisors <optional>	0-20 min			
Connect and strategize with others from your organization in EIG Academy	30 min	30 min	30 min	
Independent reading, reflection, action	Varies based on personal style and focus			

*Each quarter, participants will complete an **online Knowledge Check**. Completion time is estimated at 10-20 minutes.

At the conclusion of the program, submitting a **final project or capstone is required to receive the NeighborWorks Board Governance Leader certificate. Details are provided to eligible participants in March of their final ‘school year.’

What if I don't feel like my assigned cohort is the right fit?

We encourage each person to attend two to three cohort sessions to get to know their peers and facilitator. If after those two or three sessions, you feel like the group is not a good fit for you, please email exingov@nw.org. We'll connect with you to understand more about what the challenge is and work to find another cohort for you to participate in. Please remember you are required to attend at least six sessions each year of the program to earn certification.

Who will our cohort conversations be shared with?

Cohort conversations are limited to those in attendance. Cohort sessions are not recorded, and discussions are not shared outside the group.

If I cannot attend a Live Seminar, can I watch it later?

Yes. We realize that life happens and people are busy. We encourage you to attend live as often as possible, and the Live Seminar recording will be available on our EIG Academy platform by the end of the week it has been offered.

How serious is EIG Academy about my attendance?

Attendance is taken for the Live Seminars and the cohort sessions. In addition to attendance, completing the quarterly Knowledge Checks and, if eligible, presenting your final project determines if you are eligible for the NeighborWorks certificate.

How will the rest of my board learn the content from EIG Academy?

Taking what you learn during EIG Academy back to your board and senior staff is a **component of the program** that is your responsibility. Share ideas, templates and experiments that you think might work and, in alignment with the board and senior staff, try new ways of operating. Schedule time each month to connect with board colleagues and staff who are in EIG Academy to determine who will share what when with the full board.

Is my organization required to adopt everything shared in EIG Academy?

Definitely not. EIG Academy spotlights *promising practices* that have been tested within the NeighborWorks network, the housing and community development field and the nonprofit sector. Each network board is unique, and not all promising practices will resonate. Everything that is shared in EIG Academy is offered for your governance team's consideration, in hopes of fostering discussion, strengthening collaboration and deepening partnership among the board and senior staff.

Will there be another round of EIG Academy? If so, when?

EIG Academy plans to launch our 2027 EIG Academy Class in August 2027, with applications opening in the spring of 2027.

Additional questions? Contact exingov@nw.org