

Securing the Future Conference
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Session Presenters
October 29, 2025 | 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Submission Deadline: Aug. 6, 2025

About the Conference and Conference Attendees

Securing the Future (STF) conference, hosted by **Leadership Council for Nonprofits**, is an annual Greater Cincinnati one-day conference designed to build nonprofit resources, skills, and connections. Hundreds of nonprofit executives, board leaders, fundraisers, funders, and community leaders attend each year. The 2025 conference theme is: **"Mission: Possible - Resilience, Connection, and Courage in Uncertain Times"** We are in the process of retaining keynote and luncheon speakers and will update when contracts are signed.

Now more than ever, STF's success depends largely on our presenters' ability to deliver thought-provoking sessions that help nonprofit leaders tackle current leadership challenges and seize opportunities to advance their missions. We want attendees to leave the conference with a broader understanding of current and future trends on the local, national and global level so they can help the organizations they serve to **secure the future**.

Past presenters have included some of the most influential and inspiring leaders and thinkers in the nonprofit sector. They are board leaders and chief executives who are transforming their organizations through extraordinary leadership or change management; researchers who are forging new understanding of leadership models and practices; advisors who are helping organizations expand their impact and improve performance; and other influencers who are helping the nonprofit sector think creatively and differently about leadership, innovation, and collaborations.

As a workshop presenter at STF you will have the opportunity to:

- Disseminate new knowledge, insights, or research that will help nonprofit leaders strengthen their organization's staff and board leadership and impact.
- Engage participants in dialogue about important issues, trends, or challenges affecting nonprofit leaders and their boards.
- Network with nonprofit staff and board members, as well as consultants, funders, and others who are focused on strengthening nonprofit leadership.
- Attend the full-day conference program with a complimentary speaker registration.

Proposal Submission & Selection Information

As a breakout speaker at STF you will have the following responsibilities:

- Presenters will conduct 30- to 50-minute sessions.
- Presenters will provide information, materials, and resources for participants.
- The conference is planned to be in person, so you will be presenting live, and your session may be repeated twice.
- Ensure that the session is not perceived as an “infomercial” for your company and that you do not hard sell your company’s products/services to our paid participants before or during the session. Presenting at a STF conference is an opportunity to expand knowledge and skills while giving back to the nonprofit and philanthropic community. If you wish solely to promote products or services to this influential audience, we offer a range of [sponsorship packages](#).

Successful proposal submissions will include:

1. Compelling short title and 500-character description of your session.
2. Information on proposed learning goals, objectives, and outcomes.
 - a. Position or level of experience that the session is designed to reach.
 - b. *Goals*: In broad terms, what will participants take away from this session?
 - c. *Objectives*: What specific things do you want the participant to know and do? These are specific achievements that contribute towards reaching the goal(s).
 - d. *Outcomes*: What do you want participants to be able to demonstrate after this session? Examples: changes in behavior, attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, and/or skills as a result of your session.
3. Session format that is engaging and interactive (i.e., lecture, panel, Q&A etc.)
4. Be innovative. STF is the most prominent local conference for nonprofit leaders, and we want sessions that have the content and approaches to support this distinction.
5. Include connection to the current state of the sector, real-world case studies, relevant trends, practical applications, and peer-to-peer learning where possible.

Session Topics

Here are some examples of sessions that fit the theme and could be responsive to our attendees’ concerns right now. You are welcome to submit other ideas related to building sustainable and successful nonprofits and responding to today’s challenges.

➔ **Grace Under Pressure, Hope for the Future:** How can we bring optimism, hope, and visionary thinking to our missions and the people we serve without denying hard realities and burning ourselves out? People need to feel safe, seen, and heard, but also need a reason to believe.

➔ **A Force for Good:** Workforce gaps, turnover, burnout, culture issues affect our ability to attract and retain qualified team members at all levels. What have you implemented in recruitment, HR best practice, professional development, or career pathways to address this problem?

➔ **Funding for the Future:** looking at your funding model, dealing with uncertainty, scenario planning, shared services, or related.

➔ **Making Tech Work for Your Mission:** AI, Cyber Security, tech stack, CRMs, etc.

➔ **Board Relationships:** How can boards support organizations in challenging times? How can staff leaders collaborate with boards that leverage their skills and passions? What constitutes good governance in these times?

Selection & Deadlines

Selection Information:

- Each presenter under consideration may have a phone or virtual interview to review speaker(s)' knowledge of the subject matter.
- You may submit more than one session proposal - please treat each as a separate application. It is unlikely that more than one will be selected from the same presenter. Our goal is to provide our attendees with a wide range of topics and presentation styles from a diverse group of presenters.
- Proposals will be reviewed by members of the conference steering committee. Once proposals are selected, and all respondents notified, those selected will be contacted by a committee member or executive director for review of their session.

Deadlines:

- Proposal submission deadline: **Aug. 6, 2025**
- Chosen presenters will be notified by: **Aug. 27, 2025**
- (If selected) Video submission deadline: **Sept. 10, 2025***
** Videotaping a short 30-45 seconds about your session is not required but is a great way to get people interested in your session. It is highly recommended.*

Submission:

Proposals must be submitted through this form: <https://forms.gle/KciYpdJEALRAgoVH6>

Questions?

Thank you in advance for considering submitting a proposal for Securing the Future!

Please direct all questions about this RFP to bbenson@leadershipcouncil.us or visit the LC website at www.leadershipcouncil.us for more information.