



**2026 Securing the Future Conference**  
**Call for Proposals for Session Presenters**  
**October 20, 2026 | 8:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Submission Deadline: July 6, 2026**

**About the Conference and Conference Attendees**

**Securing the Future** (STF) conference, hosted by **Leadership Council for Nonprofits**, is an annual regional one-day conference designed to build nonprofit resources, skills, and connections. More than 300 nonprofit executives, board leaders, fundraisers, funders, and community leaders attend each year. The 2026 conference will focus on the ways we strengthen our organizations and our missions through sharing, collaborating, and showing up for each other. We are in the process of retaining a keynote speaker 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 the ways we are stronger together 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 members 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 critical issues, trends, or challenges affecting nonprofit leaders and their boards.

Please direct all questions about this RFP to [bbenson@leadershipcouncil.us](mailto:bbenson@leadershipcouncil.us) or visit the LC website at [www.leadershipcouncil.us](http://www.leadershipcouncil.us) for more information.

- 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 live 45- to 60-minute sessions.
- Presenters will provide information, materials, and resources for participants.
- Ensure that the session is not perceived as an “infomercial” for your company or service. 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 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. A session format that is engaging and interactive for participants (i.e., interactive presentation, panel, roundtable, 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 into the theme and could be responsive to our attendees’ concerns right now:

► **Connections:** mergers get all the attention, but there are a wide range of ways that nonprofits are partnering with each other and other sectors. What’s your example and what can others learn from it?

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- ▶ **Making Tech Work for Your Mission:** data projects, AI, Cyber Security, tech stack, CRMs, etc.
- ▶ **A Force for Good:** Workforce gaps, turnover, burnout, culture issues all 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 rise to the challenge? How do you invest in people creatively and affordably?
- ▶ **Funding for the Future:** examining your revenue model, dealing with uncertainty, scenario planning, shared services, or related.
- ▶ **Values in Action:** how does the way you conduct your work reflect the values inherent in your mission and those of your constituents?
- ▶ **Governance:** engaging and strengthening your boards, new models of nonprofit governance, legal issues, and risk management
- ▶ **Grace Under Pressure, Hope for the Future:** How can we bring hope, and visionary thinking to our missions and the people we serve without denying hard realities and burning ourselves out?
- ▶ **Other:** You are welcome to submit other ideas related to building and operating sustainable and successful nonprofits.

## 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.
- Members of the conference advisory committee will review proposals. Once proposals are selected, and all respondents are notified, those selected will be contacted by a committee member or executive director for review of their session.

### Deadlines:

- Proposal submission deadline: **July 6, 2026**
- Chosen presenters will be notified by the beginning of August.

### Submission:

Proposals must be submitted through this form: <https://forms.gle/tca8XLFTNQDJ964L7>

### Questions?

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

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