



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

Q: Who is the ideal candidate for Launch Carolinas?

A: The Launch Carolinas program is most beneficial when the cohort brings a variety of experiences, backgrounds, and organization types. As such, there is no single profile that defines the ideal candidate. Given that Launch Carolinas provides “graduate-level” professional development, it is important that applicants demonstrate a strong foundation of non-profit operations and community engagement.

Q: I work in a Co-Executive Director model with my organization. Can one or both of us apply?

A: Yes, one of you may apply. Unfortunately, the program cannot support both co-directors at the same time.

Q: I’m currently serving as interim Executive Director, but I think the Board will offer me the position before the program begins. Am I eligible to apply?

A: No, you must be currently working in the primary leadership position at the time of application to be considered.

ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY

Q: Our organization provides services in only one of the areas listed in the program description. Are we eligible?

A: Yes, organizations must be providing services in at least one of the areas. Offering services in multiple areas does not increase the likelihood of selection.

Q: We operate out of Georgia with plans to start services in SC this fall. Can I apply?

A: No, organizations must currently be providing services in NC or SC to be eligible for consideration.

Q: Our organization is being incubated by another nonprofit organization, but we are in the process of establishing our own 501(c)(3) organization. Are we eligible?

A: No, organizations must currently be operating as an independent organization to be eligible.

Q: Our budget is just over the maximum threshold. Do you make exceptions to the budget range?

A: No, we do not make exceptions to the budget range. Organizations with budgets below the minimum or above the maximum will not be considered.





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Q: Our organization serves as an association of other nonprofit organizations. Would we be considered for the program?

A: Launch Carolinas is seeking organizations that work closely with and in their communities. Associations or other collective organizations will be considered, but the direct connection to the community must be evident.

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

Q: What happens after I submit my application?

A: The GOODSTOCK team will review all applications to ensure eligibility requirements are met. Qualified applicants will then be reviewed by the Launch Carolinas application and selection team. The top 30 applicants will be invited for a panel interview. Twelve applicants are then offered seats in the next cohort. If an applicant declines, the next runner-up is notified.

Q: What's the timeline?

A: Our current timeline is outlined below. Any changes to the timeline will be updated here.

- April 15 - May 15: Application window open
- May 18 - June 8: Applicant review, top 30 applicants selected
- June 10 - 17: GOODSTOCK schedules panel interviews
- June 22 - July 10: Panel interviews are conducted
- July 22: Selected applicants are notified
- July 31: Selected applicants accept their seat (any vacant seat will be offered to alternate candidates)

Q: Why do you ask Funder Matching questions?

A: Many of our funding partners support organizations working in certain geographic and program areas. Throughout the selection process, we must ensure we can match an applicant with a funder that meets their criteria.

Q: My organization has not filed a 990. Can I still apply?

A: No, the organization must have filed a 990 to be considered.

Q: We haven't filed our 2025 990 yet. Is the 2024 990 acceptable?

A: Yes, please submit the most recent, completed 990.



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Q: Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation?

A: The letter of recommendation is intended to illustrate an applicant's ability to engage the community in developing strategy and reaching program decisions. Applicants are encouraged to request the letter from someone with first-hand knowledge and understanding of this ability in the community.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Q: I have a pre-booked trip for the orientation weekend. Are exceptions made?

A: No, you must be able to attend the August 12-14 orientation session to participate in the program.

Q: Is my organization expected to cover the cost of travel for the in-person sessions?

A: No, all expenses related to travel (hotel, mileage, meals) are covered by Launch Carolinas. The individual stipend paid to participants may be used to cover other expenses, such as childcare.

Q: How much time will I be out of the office for this program?

A: The program includes four in-person sessions, which usually begin at lunch on a Wednesday and end at lunch on Friday. If a session is located more than five hours from the office, the participant may choose to travel the evening before the session begins.

Q: Outside of the in-person sessions, how much time does the program require?

A: To fully benefit from the program content and the strategic thought partnership, participants should plan to spend 4-6 hours per month for pre-work, reading, partner meetings, and post-work.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Q: How do I apply?

A: To apply to Launch Carolinas, please complete three steps.

1. Carefully review eligibility, guidelines, and deadlines. Applicants are required to read the eligibility guidelines before starting an application. Please be aware that we do not make exceptions to the eligibility guidelines.
2. Create an account, or log in to your account. Visit our online grants portal. Click the Create New Account button and enter an email address and password to be used for all your submissions. Launch Carolinas will send all information related to your application to this email address. If you already have an account, enter your credentials and click the Log On button.



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3. Complete the online grant application. Once you are logged in, click the Apply link at the top of our portal. Click the Preview button if you would like to view the application questions. Click the Apply button to begin your application. Submit your application by May 15.

Q: I have questions on navigating the application site. Is there a resource to help?

A: Yes, please access the [training module](#) and review all content carefully. If you have remaining questions, please contact adminsupport@goodstockconsulting.com.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If your question hasn't been answered, please attend an information session on April 17, April 29 or May 8. Please visit the [scheduling sign-up](#) to select the date and time.