BoardEffect
a Diligent brand

Why board development matters

An infographic and guide for nonprofit leaders

Why board development for nonprofits?

Learning and development plays a critical role in enhancing board effectiveness, equipping members with the skills and insights needed to guide and oversee organizations effectively.[1]

"Continuous and collective learning opportunities are extremely important to deepen board members' understanding of the organization, the environment in which your nonprofit operates and their roles and responsibilities. When your board has a better understanding of these topics, it allows more effectiveness and provides greater value to the organization."

Cheretta A. Clerkley
Executive Director
Association for Positive Behavior Support

Frequency of board training

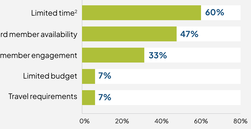
33% of nonprofits say board training ends at onboarding.[2]

27% of nonprofits offer board training "as needed."[2]

"We offer a lot of education around the different committees, expectations, what committees reports to the board should look like ... Bringing board members up to speed on how we work is important and ongoing. We incorporate some kind of learning each time we meet."

Mary Figueredo
Senior Executive Assistant
Wespath Benefits and Investments

5 challenges faced by nonprofits when tackling board development



Sourcing board training

Where nonprofits source board training and development materials:

60% Create in-house[2]

7% Purchase self-delivered third-party content

13% Purchase third-party content with a trainer

20% From our membership in association/training providers

Tip: A time- and budget-saving strategy is to store key training resources in your board management solution so future members can benefit with no additional cost.

Top 10 things nonprofits are training board members on

1	Governance	87%
2	Financial oversight	60%
3	Legal and regulatory compliance	53%
4	Strategic planning	40%
5	Compliance and ethics	40%
6	Cybersecurity	33%
7	Communications	33%
8	Organizational culture	33%
9	Fundraising and development	20%
10	Advocacy	20%

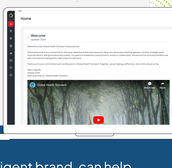
Enhancing board development with technology

BoardEffect is built to support the entire leadership team's development and, ultimately, its effectiveness.

With centralized resource libraries, along with surveys and polls to gather feedback on training and development activities, and customized workflows to make sure training and development is on the agenda.

"Having one central place where you can store education materials and then having a way to contact the board to let them know that it's available is a great way to leverage technology for board development. Having an organized library of content so that when someone is looking for something specific and getting ready to have a conversation at a board meeting, it's easy to find."

Dottie Schindlinger
Co-founder of Board Effect
and Executive Director of
Diligent Institute



See how BoardEffect, a Diligent brand, can help you and your board get on the same page to meet your mission.

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Learn more

1 Didier Cossin and Yukie Saito, "The importance of learning and development for board members."
December 13, 2024. https://www.peopleimpactmagazine.co.uk/article/1899784/importance-learning-development-board-members.
2 Diligent survey of nonprofit leaders, February 2025.

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