

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **United Way Seeks Applicants for New Nonprofit Leadership Development Series**

*Created to strengthen the competencies of nonprofit staff who aspire to become executive directors, the inaugural Deputy Director Learning Circle will be held monthly for 10 months*

**Providence, R.I.** (August 8, 2022) [United Way of Rhode Island](#) is launching a new leadership development series for staff of local nonprofits with annual budgets of \$5 million and under and is currently accepting applications from interested participants. The no-cost program is the Deputy Director Learning Circle, and it was developed specifically to strengthen the competencies of nonprofit staff who aspire to become executive directors.

Those interested may apply [online](#). The application deadline is Wednesday, August 17.

“You cannot overstate the importance — or the impact — that nonprofits have on our communities and the lives of our neighbors, particularly over these past few years,” said Roshni Darnal, United Way’s director of community investments. “And if we’re going to continue to rely on them in the future as we do today, it’s imperative that we support their staff and help them grow in every way possible, and that’s exactly what this program is intended to do.”

To help strengthen the competencies of nonprofit staff who aspire to become executive directors, the Deputy Director Learning Circle will focus on staff leadership, financial management, board development, strategic planning, and marketing and communications.

It will begin in September and continue until June 2023, with cohort members meeting on the second Friday of each month at United Way’s Providence headquarters. Sessions may be held virtually, as needed.

The program will be led by Michael Fournier. Over the past seven years, Michael has provided volunteer consulting to numerous grassroots nonprofits in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, primarily in the areas of executive coaching and capacity building. Previously, he spent 35 years serving in senior leadership roles at YMCAs in Manchester, New Hampshire, and Providence, Rhode Island.

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United Way of Rhode Island is uniting our community and resources to build racial equity and opportunities for all Rhode Islanders. A member of the world’s largest nonprofit network, we bring together individuals, businesses, nonprofits, community leaders, and government to tackle the root causes of inequity and achieve specific, measurable goals. Our programs include 211, the statewide front door connecting Rhode Islanders with social services, resources, and vital programs. Both directly and through grants to nonprofits, we are investing to build economic opportunity, advance childhood learning, expand philanthropy, and drive policy and participation. To learn more, visit [unitedwayri.org](http://unitedwayri.org), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).