CARING COLLECTIVE
Nonprofits for Stronger Communities

# Chief Executive Peer Circles: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## What are the Chief Executive Peer Circles?

The Chief Executive Peer Circles are a dynamic platform designed for nonprofit leaders committed to enhancing their leadership skills, expanding their network, and implementing innovative solutions to organizational challenges. Chief Executive Peer Circles are collaborative groups formed by leaders aiming to share insights, address challenges, and support each other's professional growth.

## What is the value to you and your non-profit in joining the Chief Executive Peer Circles?

Members of the Peer Circles benefit from:

- Peer Learning: Exchange experiences and tackle challenges with fellow leaders.
- Strategic Collaboration: Leverage collective resources to maximize impact.
- Professional Growth: Gain skills in areas like strategic planning, board governance, succession planning, fundraising, financial management, and more.
- Innovative Solutions: Explore cutting-edge approaches to management.
- Advocacy & Influence: A better understanding about advocacy and its importance as part of representing your organization.
- Resource Sharing: Access a diverse pool of resources and tools.
- Networking: Form lasting connections that foster personal and organizational growth.
- Crisis Resilience: Learn to manage and thrive through crises.
- DEI Commitment: Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Sustainability Focus: Plan for your organization's long-term sustainability.

## Who is eligible to join the Peer Circles?

Chief executives from nonprofits serving Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto Counties who are committed to collaborative learning and growth can apply. We prioritize diversity and inclusivity in our membership to enrich the learning environment.

## How are the Peer Circles structured?

- Group Size: Each circle has 7-10 members to facilitate deep, meaningful engagement.
- Meeting Frequency: The initial kickoff meeting will be 2.5–3 hours, held on September 29, 2026. Following the kickoff, we anticipate eight 2-hour meetings over the next ten months, with the schedule determined by Circle members. The experience will conclude with a closing retreat designed to reflect on learnings, strengthen peer connections, and set intentions for the future.
- Facilitation: Facilitation and on-going support provided by Brynne Anne Besio.

- Insights: Discussions are focused on generating actionable strategies for immediate application.

**What is expected of members?**

- Confidentiality: Members must maintain confidentiality to ensure a safe space for open dialogue.
- Active Participation: Members are expected to contribute actively to discussions.
- Regular Attendance: Members will commit to attending all scheduled meetings to ensure continuity and maximum benefit.

**Is there a cost to join the Peer Circles?**

Each Chief Executive Peer Circle is professionally facilitated by an experienced leadership consultant who ensures meaningful dialogue, productive group dynamics, and actionable takeaways. Over the course of 10 months, participants will also learn from guest experts on topics such as strategic leadership, fundraising, HR, governance, and burnout prevention.

The full value of the 10-month program is $1,250, which includes over 20 hours of facilitation, expert presentations, printed materials, and access to a confidential, high-level peer group. However, **thanks to the generous support of the Caring Collective and committed donors, the cost to each participant is just $625**. Payment is due upon acceptance into the program. Space is limited to ensure high-impact engagement, so early application is encouraged.

**How can I apply to join the Peer Circles?**

Interested chief executives may apply by completing the online application. If you have questions, we invite you to contact Charlene Altenhain, Chief Executive Officer, Caring Collective, at caltenhain@caring-collective.org or at (941) 867-4387. The deadline to apply is August 31, 2026.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Chief Executive Peer Circles and embarking on a journey of leadership enhancement and community impact together.