

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is Board Connections?

Board Connections is DANA's leadership-matching initiative designed to strengthen Delaware's nonprofit ecosystem by connecting qualified, values-driven board candidates with nonprofits seeking engaged, strategic, and mission-aligned leadership.

It serves both nonprofits ready to build or diversify their board and individuals seeking meaningful ways to serve their community.

2. Who is Board Connections designed for?

Board Connections supports two primary groups:

Nonprofits

- Organizations seeking new or additional board members.
- Boards looking to diversify skillsets, demographics, and perspectives.
- Organizations needing help clarifying roles, expectations, and governance processes.

Prospective Board Members

- Emerging and seasoned leaders who want to serve on a nonprofit board.
- Individuals looking for a structured pathway to board service.
- Corporate, civic, and community leaders eager to use their expertise for impact.

3. What types of leaders typically enter the Board Connections pipeline?

Our candidates include:

- Corporate professionals seeking meaningful service opportunities.
- Emerging young leaders preparing for their first board role.
- Seasoned executives with expertise in finance, law, HR, fundraising, DEI, strategy, and more.
- Community champions rooted in lived experience and grassroots leadership.
- Retired professionals who want purposeful engagement.

Each candidate undergoes a vetting process to ensure readiness for board service.

4. What does a nonprofit need in place before being matched?

We ensure each organization has:

- A clear mission, vision, and governance structure
- Defined expectations for board members
- A commitment to healthy board culture and onboarding
- An identified point of contact for follow-up
- Willingness to invest time in cultivating a strong leadership relationship

If an organization needs support strengthening its governance foundation, DANA can help through our consulting and training offerings.

5. Is there a cost to participate?

Participation in Board Connections is included for most DANA members.

For nonmembers, modest fees may apply depending on the level of support needed (onboarding, coaching, consulting, or training).

We'll always discuss fees transparently before moving forward.

6. How long does the matching process take?

Most matches occur within 4–12 weeks, depending on:

- The nonprofit's readiness and clarity of needs
- Availability of leaders with specific skillsets
- Alignment around mission and values
- Scheduling for conversations and next steps

DANA prioritizes quality over speed — we match for long-term success, not short-term convenience.

7. Can DANA help train new board members?

Absolutely.

Board Connections includes access to:

- Board orientation resources.
- Governance best practices.
- Workshops and webinars through DANA's Leadership Development portfolio.
- Custom coaching for boards needing deeper support.

Our goal is to ensure new board members feel confident, prepared, and welcomed.

8. Does Board Connections prioritize diversity?

Yes. At DANA, we believe strong governance reflects the communities served.

Our process intentionally addresses diversity in:

- Skillsets.
- Lived experience.
- Demographics.
- Geographic representation.
- Thought leadership.

This commitment strengthens decision-making, trust, and organizational impact.

9. Who can I contact with questions?

For inquiries or support, reach out directly to:

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