



Welcome to the 2025-26 Neighborhood Leadership Program!

Thank you for your interest in making a positive difference in our communities. We are here to support you in building skills, engaging with other leaders, and developing your capacity to increase your impact to create stronger communities in Greater New Haven.

General Principles of the Program:

- ☐ Learning environment, beginner's mind.
- ☐ Effective action for change starts with compassionate understanding of what is.
- ☐ The changes we seek depend on our being in positive relationship with each other.
- ☐ Communities have untapped resources waiting to find creative expression.
- ☐ Hands-on, experiential learning is learning for life.

Elements of Learning

- ☐ Group training sessions: see schedule below
 - ☐ 6 sessions, about 32 hours in all
- ☐ In between support team meetings, and coaching
 - ☐ About 15 hours total
- ☐ Independent work
 - ☐ About 2 hours/week
- ☐ Pilot project design, execution, and evaluation – January and February 2026

The training sessions and the learning and practice go hand in hand, and your full participation in both is important to the success of the program for you and for others. Full participation is expected from everyone and will require at least 15 hours per month.

Program Overview and Schedule

PART ONE – Fall 2025

UNIT ONE: CONNECTION, PURPOSE

Identifying Purpose; relational culture; connection; the practice of one-on-one (1:1) meetings

Group meeting: Friday 10/17 6pm-9pm In person
Group meeting: Saturday 10/18, 9:30-3pm In person
Support team meetings: TBD, 1@ 90 min In person
Independent work: on your schedule, 2 hrs/week

UNIT TWO: COMMUNITY CONTEXT

1:1s in the community; building from strengths; context of racism; what are the gaps

Group meeting: Saturday 11/15, 9:30-3pm In person
Groundwater Training TBD 3 hrs Webinar
Support team meetings: TBD, 2@ 90 min In person
Independent work: on your schedule, 2 hrs/week



UNIT THREE: LEARNING GOALS, PILOT PROJECTS

Hidden Assumptions; reframing; grounding in Purpose; pilot design; pilot completion

Group meeting: Saturday 1/10/2026 9:30-3pm In person (virtual if bad weather)

Support team meetings: TBD, 2@ 90 min In person or virtual on camera

Independent work: on your schedule, 2+ hrs/week

Pilot project execution and observation: to be complete by 3/1/2026

UNIT FOUR: PURPOSE AND PIVOT

Process pilot learning; collaboration; new questions; new directions

Group Meeting: Friday 3/13/26 6-3pm In person

Group Meeting: Saturday 3/14/26 9:30-3pm In person

Support team meetings (new): TBD 2@ 90 min In person/virtual on camera

Tour of The Community Foundation TBD 6-8pm In person

Independent work: on your schedule, 2 hrs/week

UNIT FIVE: MAKING IT REAL

Collaboration; community strengths community partners; planning backwards

Group Meeting: Saturday 4/18/26 9:30-3:00 In person

Support team meetings: TBD 2@90 min In person/virtual on camera

Independent work: on your schedule, 2 hrs/week

UNIT SIX: LAUNCH

Budgeting, team building, engaging participants, grant application, program evaluation

Group Meeting: Saturday 5/16/26 9:30-3pm In person

Support team meetings: as needed In person/virtual

Independent work: on your schedule, 2+ hrs/week

Second Round Funding applications - Due before June 15, 2026

- Application narrative:
 - Vision statement
 - Who is served
 - Neighborhoods impacted
 - Sequence/arc of engagement
 - Implementation team
- Resources to be engaged
- Seven line budget