

ESS 2026 - Supervisor Statement of Support

The deadline for nominations is Monday, December 8th.

Thank you for supporting your colleague's application to participate in Philanthropy New York's 2026 Essential Skills and Strategies (ESS) course.

ESS is a dynamic and extensive professional development opportunity for newer program officers and directors.

Visit our website to learn more about the program and the intended outcomes of participation:

<https://philanthropynewyork.org/essential-skills-and-strategies-program-officers>

The curriculum is designed for and open to program officers and directors who have the following responsibilities:

- Relationship stewardship with grantee partners
- Aligning grantmaking with strategic priorities (i.e., sourcing potential grants, making grant recommendations and/or decisions)
- Communicate funding recommendations and decisions to foundation stakeholders (i.e., CEO and/or Board, grantees)
- Some level of responsibility around assessment of grantmaking portfolio for learning and decision making

ESS is ideal for program officers/directors who have been through a grantmaking cycle at their foundation since the curriculum relies heavily on knowing your own institution's grantmaking practices. We suggest members take PNY's Philanthropy 101 course before taking ESS.

Given the high demand for this program, ESS is only open to Philanthropy New York members. Space is limited to 25 individuals. We limit participation per organization in order to accommodate as many member organizations as we can. In addition, priority is given to individuals who have been in their roles for more time.

If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Peters (cpeters@philanthropynewyork.org) and Kristen Ruff (kruff@philanthropynewyork.org).

Regards,

Philanthropy New York
register@philanthropynewyork.org

*** 1. Your Contact Information:**

Full Name:

Organization:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

*** 2. ESS Candidate:**

Full Name:

* 3. Please **briefly** describe how this candidate will contribute to a productive group work/peer learning environment.

* 4. Participating in ESS is a *significant* time commitment. Participants commit to four full-day in-person sessions, five half-day virtual sessions, and 6 - 8 hours of pre-reading and homework.

Please share how you will support your colleague in allocating the time to participate fully in the program.