



SOAR 55 Nonprofit Management Consulting Group Program FAQs

What kinds of projects do the consultants work on?

Projects are diverse and may include strategic, business and marketing plans, needs assessments, feasibility studies, new program development and creation and management of volunteer programs

What kind of training is required for the consultants?

Qualified volunteers go through a comprehensive interview process and are required to have an executive level or professional background that qualifies them for the consultant role. Volunteers commit to 62 hours of training which includes: Introduction to Nonprofits, Consulting Skills and Deliverables, Strategic Planning, Business Planning, Marketing and Outreach Plans, Conflict Resolution, Report Writing and Team Building. They are also able to take additional courses on topics such as Finance for Nonprofits, Development Basics, and Marketing for Nonprofits.

Who will be the members of the Consulting Group Team?

The team is composed of a Team Project Coordinator and one or two other consultants ideally with real-world expertise in the area to be addressed. A Project Coach, with a professional consultant background, provides oversight, guidance and support to the team throughout the term of the consulting project.

In what ways will the organization be expected to participate?

Once an organization's Request for Service is received one of the Project Coaches will meet with key staff to discuss needs and goals. Upon acceptance of the organization as a "Client" and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Client will assign a Project Liaison to facilitate communications and manage logistics between the Consulting Team and the key staff of Client organization. The Project Liaison will be expected to provide background information and pertinent materials and make himself/herself and the staff available to enable the Consulting Team to fulfill its contract within the determined time frame.

What will be the terms of the Consulting Agreement (Contract)?

The Consulting Agreement, to be signed by both the client and SOAR 55, will define the scope and objectives of the consult, the time frame and participation needs from the organization. An agreed-upon work plan will be determined following the signing of the Agreement.

What is the usual time frame for a consult?

The consult generally will last approximately 6 – 8 months, depending on the nature of the project. Beyond the agreed-upon time, an extension or a new contract will have to be negotiated.

What are the limitations of the contract?

The Team will address only the goals outlined in the contract. If other issues need to be addressed, a new contract will have to be negotiated.

How soon after the organization applies for consulting services will the consult begin?

The timing will depend on the availability of consultants and the availability of the organization's key staff to participate in an assessment visit and to agree to the terms of the contract.

Who will be the SOAR 55 contact person throughout the project's term?

Prior to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Program Manager will be the primary contact. Once the MOU is signed, the Team Project Coordinator will be the primary contact person.

Is there a fee for this service?

The service is offered on a pro-bono basis as part of the SOAR 55 program, although organizations are asked to consider making a contribution to support the program upon the successful conclusion of the consulting project.