

National Land Bank Network Mentorship Program

The [National Land Bank Network \(NLBN\)](#) is pleased to support another year of the Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program to continue fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange in the land banking field.

The Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program pairs seasoned land bank leaders with emerging leaders seeking guidance in their roles. New land bank leaders are often forced to learn on the fly and work to solve their community's vacant property challenges on their own. This program helps these new leaders grow their knowledge and form a deep connection with an experienced thought partner.

The ideal **mentees** are individuals **with less than 5 years of experience** in the land banking field and newer to a leadership role who want to learn from experienced mentors who have successfully navigated similar paths.

The ideal **mentors** are leaders **with a minimum of 5 years of experience** in the land banking field who are eager to provide insight and advice to propel their mentees' growth.

Applications are due via the [application portal](#) by March 31, 2026 at 5 PM ET.

Expectations for Program Participants

- ✓ Complete a Participant Agreement form.
- ✓ Coordinate a meeting schedule and preferred method of contact.
- ✓ Meet virtually for at least one hour once per month for program duration (May–November 2026). Additional meetings are up to the discretion of mentee and mentor but strongly encouraged.
- ✓ Cultivate an environment of professionalism, trust, and respect.
- ✓ Adhere to the meeting guidance documents provided by NLBN.
- ✓ Attend virtual meetings with other mentorship program participants hosted by NLBN.
- ✓ Successfully complete agreed-upon obligations by the end of program.
- ✓ Participate in any follow-up surveys and/or phone calls throughout and following program completion and provide feedback/testimonials where applicable.

2026 Key Dates

Dates	Description
March 31	Applications due at 5:00 PM ET . Submit your application here »
April 13	All mentees and mentors matched.
April 20	All mentee and mentors introduced via email.
April 27	Virtual Meet and Greet and Program Overview.
May–November	Monthly mentor-mentee meetings.
September 23	<i>For those attending the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference only:</i> In-person gathering.
November 23	Wrap-up call with program participants.

Program FAQs

When are applications due?

Applications are due **Tuesday, March 31** at **5:00 PM ET**. [Submit your application here »](#)

Who is eligible to participate in the mentorship program?

Any staff member or official in a leadership role at a land bank or land banking program that belongs to NLBN is eligible to participate.

If your land bank is not currently an NLBN member, you can [join NLBN here »](#)

When will I be matched?

Mentees and mentors will be matched by April 13 and introduced via email by April 20.

Note: We will do our best to match all mentees with a mentor, but matches are subject to availability and not guaranteed. We will notify any unmatched applicants and save your information for the next program cycle.

What is the time commitment to participate?

To encourage regular engagement, we have outlined a few requirements to ensure program success. Please see Expectations for Program Participants and Important Dates for an understanding of the obligations and requirements to participate in the program this cycle.

Is this a paid opportunity for mentors?

No. Participation in the Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program is on a volunteer basis.

What if my mentor/mentee is not a good fit?

Please reach out—we will work with you on next steps and try to rematch you to a new mentee/mentor.

What if I'm no longer able to participate in the program?

In the case of unforeseen changes in your schedule, please let us know so we can coordinate one final virtual session with your mentee/mentor and end on a positive note.

Questions? Reach out to Kira Carney, Program Officer, Education, Leadership, and Engagement, at kcarney@communityprogress.org.

Application Questions

Name

Address

City

State

Phone

Email

Organization

Organization Type

Title

Share a short biography that includes your work history and experience in the land banking and community development fields. (250 words or less)

What role are you interested in?

- Mentor (more than 5 years' experience in the land bank field)
- Mentee (less than 5 years' experience in the land bank field)

How many years of experience do you have in the land bank field?

- 0–5 years
- 5–7 years
- 7–10 years
- 10+ years

**Why are you interested in being a part of the Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program?
(250 words or less)**

***(Mentors only)* Which of the following challenges do you feel most prepared to support a mentee with?**

Board Management

Marketing/Communications

Career Goals

Networking

Community Engagement

Operations

Funding/Financial Health

Real Estate/Development

Leadership

Strategic Planning

***(Mentees only)* Which of the following challenges are you most eager to receive mentorship support on?**

Board Management

Marketing/Communications

Career Goals

Networking

Community Engagement

Operations

Funding/Financial Health

Real Estate/Development

Leadership

Strategic Planning

***(Mentees only)* Please upload a signed letter of support (200 words or less) from your direct supervisor or board member confirming their approval of your participation in this mentorship program.**

Is there anything else we should know to help you get the most out of this program or make the right mentorship match?

[Complete the application here »](#)