



**Boards and Commissions  
Leadership Institute**  
A Program of Nexus Community Partners

**2026**

# **BCLI Application Packet**

*Please read the entire Application Packet carefully.*

**All Application Packets are due Friday, January 23, 2026 by midnight via:**

1. **Email:** [clee@nexuscp.org](mailto:clee@nexuscp.org); OR
2. **Post-marked by **Friday, January 23, 2026** to:**
  - a. ATTN: Chai Lee, Nexus Community Partners, 2314 University Avenue, Suite 18, Saint Paul, MN 55114.

**Each organization or BCLI alum may nominate one candidate each year.**

*(See Page 4 for more information about this requirement).*

## **Checklist of Application Materials to Submit**

*Nominee is responsible for ensuring all the materials are sent to Nexus;*

*See pages 4-6 for details.*

✓ **Completed by Nominee:**

1. **Applicant Cover Sheet**.....*Complete & Included?* \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Letter of Interest** .....*Complete & Included?* \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Resume** .....*Complete & Included?* \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Recommendation Letter** .....*Complete & Included?* \_\_\_\_\_

*For more information about the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, contact Mr. Chai Lee at [clee@nexuscp.org](mailto:clee@nexuscp.org). More information about Nexus can be found at [www.nexuscp.org](http://www.nexuscp.org). Find us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn @nexuscp. This program has been adapted from the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute originally created by Urban Habitat in Oakland, California.*



## BCLI Selection Process Timeline

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 by midnight (or post-marked by January 23<sup>rd</sup>)**, but we encourage you to submit your completed Nomination Packet as soon as possible. Selected nominees will be notified by early February for an interview and then interviewed by a selection committee consisting of BCLI staff, alumni, and community members. Interviews will be held in February and Nexus will determine and notify the final cohort by early March.

## Information Sessions

We will be hosting two information sessions. Please join us to learn more about the program itself, nomination, and selection process for our 2026 BCLI cohort. You are welcome to contact BCLI staff with any questions you may have about the process, but are also **encouraged to attend one of the information sessions before nominating a candidate or applying to be a fellow.**

### Virtual Session

Tuesday, December 9, 2025  
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Will be a Zoom session, and recorded for future reference online

### In-Person Session

Thursday, January 8, 2026  
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Location: Nexus Community Partners

### Can't make it to an Information Session?

Please contact Chai Lee to get a video recording of the virtual session  
**Please RSVP** for the information sessions to Chai Lee at [clee@nexuscp.org](mailto:clee@nexuscp.org).



# BCLI Guidelines for Nominations

## Applicant MUST:

- Be **personally focused on advancing equity** for people of color and underrepresented communities
- Be **18** years of age
- **Meet the residency requirements** of the board or commission you are interested in sitting on (i.e. live, work, or own business in the specified geographic area)
- **Commit to serving on a board or commission** for a full term after completion of the BCLI (those already sitting on a board or commission in their first term may also apply)
- **Commit to attend all MONTHLY TRAININGS AND ISSUE SERIES as follows:**

## Program Dates

### 2026 BCLI Sessions (half will be in person, and half virtual)

Orientation	Thursday, March 19, 5:00 – 8:00pm
Launch & Welcome Dinner	Friday, April 17th, 6:00pm-8:00pm
Sat Session 1: Racial Equity Lens	Saturday, April 18th, 9:00am – 5:00pm
Sat Session 2: Econ. Development & Land Use	Saturday, May 16th, 9:00am – 5pm
Sat Session 3: Workforce Development	Saturday, June 13th, 9:00am – 5pm
Sat Session 4: Housing Equity	Saturday, July 18th, 9:00am – 5pm
Thursday Night Issue Series #1	Thursday, Aug 6th, 6:00 – 8:00pm
Sat Session 5: Transit Equity	Saturday, August 15th, 9:00am – 5pm
Thursday Night Issue Series #2	Thursday, September 10th, 6:00 – 8:00pm
Sat Session 6: Health Equity	Saturday, September 19th, 9:00am – 5pm
Graduation	Thursday, October 1st, 5:30pm – 7:00pm

# Nomination Process and Steps

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Each candidate should follow these steps in order to be considered for the 2026 BCLI Cohort:

1. **Locate a Nominator.** All BCLI fellows must be nominated by either a BCLI alumni, a community elder, a government agency or by a community organization with which the candidate is affiliated with as a participant, board member or advisor. **Each organization and each BCLI alum may nominate only one candidate each year.** This is to ensure shared accountability throughout the communities in which we are targeting seats and a diverse cohort of multiple networks. *If you do not know of an affiliated organization who can serve as your Nominator, contact BCLI staff to try to identify an organization in your interest area to serve as your Nominator.*
2. **Identify Your Target Seats.** Discuss with your Nominator which seat you would like to target based on your interest and experience. *(See Pages 7-28 for the full list of target seats for 2026).*
3. **Complete & Submit the Application Packet Materials.** *(See pages 4-6).*



## BCLI Application Packet: Materials to Submit

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The **applicant** is responsible for submitting all components, including those completed by the nominator.

1. **Applicant Cover Sheet (see page 5).** This brief cover sheet is to be completed by the nominee and included with the rest of the nomination materials.
2. **A Letter of Interest from the Applicant.** This letter should indicate the nominee's short-term and long-term interests both in their identified seats and any additional racial or economic equity and career aspirations. The applicant should draw on previous experiences doing advocacy work (at a personal or community level) and navigating or understanding systems to demonstrate their ability to successfully serve on a board or commission. The applicant should also speak to how they will continue to remain accountable to the community throughout their work, especially as they become an appointed commissioner.
3. **The Applicant's most recent resume.** Please send us your most updated resume.
4. **A Letter of Recommendation from the person nominating the Applicant.**



# Applicant Cover Sheet

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## TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

See the **Guidelines for Nominations (pg. 4)** for instructions to submit a complete nomination packet.

***Nominations are due no later than Friday, January 23, 2026, by midnight.***

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City, State, Zip:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

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- 1. How did you hear about the BCLI?**
- 2. Are you currently serving on a city, county, state or Metropolitan Council board or commission? If so, which one?**
- 3. What is your current age?**
- 4. What is your gender identity? (Please circle one)**
  - a) Man
  - b) Woman / Womyn
  - c) Genderqueer / Queer
  - d) Transgender
  - e) \_\_\_\_\_ (*fill in the blank*)
  - f) Prefer not to disclose
- 5. What is your race or ethnicity? (Please circle one)**
  - a) Black/African American
  - b) Afro-Latino
  - c) Afro-Caribbean
  - d) African
  - e) African Born
  - f) Asian
  - g) East Asian
  - h) South Asian
  - i) Southeast Asian

- j) Arab/Middle Eastern
- k) Hispanic/Latino(a)/Latinx
- l) American Indian or Alaska Native
- m) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- n) Multiracial
- o) White/European American
- p) Other (*please specify:* \_\_\_\_\_ )

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## 2026 BCLI Target Seats

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See the **Guidelines for Nominations** (pg. 3) for instructions to submit a complete nomination packet.

***Nominations are due no later than Friday, January 23, 2026, by midnight.***

### 2026 BCLI Target Seats

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#### **Tips on Targeting Seats:**

1. *Browse the below list and descriptions and discuss with your Nominator/Nominee which 2-3 seats to target based on your experience and interest.*
  2. *Individuals may target any of the seats on this list provided they meet residency and other commission requirements.*
  3. *Any new commissioners currently serving their first term may also be nominated.*
  4. *Please keep in mind that the information provided on this sheet is subject to (and likely to) change over the course of our recruiting period.*
  5. *Vacancies on each target board or commission are subject to change and are not guaranteed throughout the recruiting period or program year.*
  6. *If you already sit on a board not noted on this list, that is fine too. Please tell us in your application*
  7. *Please contact Program Assistant Christine Lian if you have any questions:*  
[clian@nexuscp.org](mailto:clian@nexuscp.org)
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#### **City of Brooklyn Center**

- Charter Commission
- Financial Commission
- Housing Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission

#### **City of Brooklyn Park**

- Budget Advisory Committee
- Charter Commission
- Citizen Long-range Improvement Committee (CLIC)
- Human Rights Commission
- Planning Commission

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

## **City of Minneapolis**

- Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC)
- Charter Commission
- Citizen’s Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC)
- Commission on Civil Rights
- Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council
- Housing Board of Appeals
- Minneapolis Arts Commission
- Minneapolis Workforce Development Board (MWDB)
- Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Planning Commission
- Public Health Advisory Committee
- Public Housing Authority Board
- Violence Prevention Steering Committee
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

## **City of Saint Paul**

- Board of Water Commissioners
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Business Review Council (BRC)
- Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee
- Charter Commission
- Community Health Services Advisory Committee
- Cultural STAR Board
- Food and Nutrition Commission
- Human Rights & Equal Economic Opportunity Commission
- Neighborhood STAR Board
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Port Authority
- Public Housing Agency
- Transportation Committee
- Truth in Sale of Housing Board of Evaluators

## **City of Roseville**

- Finance Commission
- Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission

- Planning Commission
- Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission
- Variance Board

### **City of Woodbury**

- Economic Development Commission (EDC)
- Parks and Natural Resources Commission
- Planning Commission

### **Hennepin County**

- Capital Budgeting Task Force
- Hennepin County Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
- Human Resources (HR) Board
- Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council
- Race Equity Advisory Council (REAC)

### **Ramsey County**

- Capital Improvement Program Citizens Advisory Committee (CIPAC)
- Heading Home Ramsey (formerly Continuum of Care Governing Board)
- Human Services Citizens Advisory Council (CAC)
- Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission
- Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
- Ramsey County Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission

### **Metropolitan Council Committees**

- Livable Communities Advisory Committee (LCAC)
- Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC)
- Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC)
- Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC)
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAB)
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### **State of Minnesota**

- Advisory Task Force on Expanding Economic Security of Women
- American Indian Advisory Council
- Community Solutions Advisory Council
- Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage
- Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans
- Crime Victims Reparations Board
- Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council (CELC)

- Emerging Entrepreneurs Board
- Governor's Advisory Council on Climate Change
- Governor's Community Council on Inclusion and Equity
- Governor's Workforce Development Council
- Health Equity Advisory and Leadership Council (HEAL)
- Housing Finance Agency
- Launch Minnesota
- Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force
- Maternal Mortality Review Committee
- Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs
- Minnesota State Board of Trustees
- State Advisory Council on Mental Health
- State Community Health Services Advisory Committee
- Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Go back to the application: <https://nexuscp.org/program/boards-and-commissions-leadership-institute/how-to-apply/>