



Apparo

2003-2023

AMPLIFYING
NONPROFIT
IMPACT

G.A.I.N., an Apparo Grant Program
Powered by Lowe's

G.A.I.N. – Powered by Lowe’s

G.A.I.N., an Apparo grant program powered by Lowe's, is a one-year nonprofit accelerator that drives Growth, Agility and Innovation for Nonprofits.



- Provide new Windows laptops for up to 5 staff members
- Evaluate current technology use, stability and growth opportunities
- Create a Technology Plan & Roadmap, reviewing current state technology and providing recommendations
- Provide a \$5,000 grant to implement technology improvements identified through program
- Assess security practices and identify ways to minimize risk
- Website User Experience Evaluation to identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Technology mentor for the entire 1 year journey

Laptop Setup

Each nonprofit will receive 5 Business grade laptops to support their staff needs.



Technology Plan and Roadmap

An effective plan enables an organization to develop a more comprehensive technology strategy and plan for future technology expenses.

Many nonprofits unintentionally build shaky technology foundations by investing in platforms or tools on an ad-hoc basis and implementing short-term solutions for long-term problems. A nonprofit technology plan guides the organization to take a comprehensive, big-picture approach to their long-term technology needs and goals.



Website User Experience Evaluation

Volunteers will assess each nonprofit's website through the perspective of their key audiences. The feedback received through this service will help identify strengths and areas of needed improvement in reaching their goals with each key audience.



Security Assessment

Each nonprofit will work with a team of skilled volunteers to assess current security practices, discuss remediation recommendations to reduce risk and increase security awareness.



Mentorship

Each nonprofit will be assigned a technology mentor. Mentors will build relationships and understand the nonprofit's current state and future goals allowing them to act as a trusted advisor throughout the G.A.I.N. journey.



Education

Throughout the program, nonprofits will participate in workshops on a variety of topics including:

- Digital Marketing
- AI
- Microsoft and Google for Nonprofits
- Project Management for Nonprofits



G.A.I.N. Grant Funds

Each nonprofit will receive a \$5,000 grant to implement technology improvements identified through program.

This grant will be provided after the completion of the Technology Plan and Roadmap to assist with the cost of one or more recommendations.



G.A.I.N. Benefits

Participating organizations can expect capacity-building benefits, including minimized expenses, saved time, minimized risk and increased employee job satisfaction. Past participants have leveraged these benefits to:

- Increase number of constituents served
- Improve quality of service to constituents
- Expand organizational geographic reach
- Improve ability to fulfill mission

Nonprofit Commitment

The one-year G.A.I.N. program will run from November 2024 to November 2025



Agree that at least one staff member will participate in program meetings and related work for approximately 8-10 hours/month.



Secure leadership support throughout the entire 1-year program, November 2024 – November 2025



Implement technology improvements identified during the program, as financially feasible



Embrace a belief that the technology improvements made and identified through participation in this program can amplify your organization's impact

Nonprofit Eligibility

Nonprofits must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the G.A.I.N. program:

- Current 501(c)3 nonprofit designation for at least 2 years - participants will be required to provide 501(c)3 determination letter
- Annual operating budget of at least \$75,000
- At least one full time staff member employed
- Located in the greater Charlotte area
- Have a community-focused mission that does not focus primarily on promoting religious activity or political campaign activity

Stories of Impact

Click the link below to hear what past G.A.I.N. participant, Daryl Bego of Youth Development Initiative had to say about the impact the Apparo G.A.I.N. program had on that organization.

[YDI Impact Video](#)

Apparo helps. You guys are promise keepers.



But more importantly, you do stuff that really helps us become more effective and efficient and that's a rarity.

How to Apply

Complete the following three part application:

1. Online Application:

- Complete the 48-question application via Microsoft Forms and submit. Because you will need to complete the application in one sitting, you may want to prepare ahead of time. A complete list of questions can be found here: [G.A.I.N. Application Workbook](#).

2. **File Upload:**

- After submitting your application via Microsoft Forms you will receive an email from Apparo with a link to upload the following:
 - Organizations official IRS 501c3 Status form
 - One minute video responding to the following: Describe your need for new technology and why you believe your nonprofit is ready to participate in the deep technology change journey required of G.A.I.N. participants

Applications close on September 9th at 12pm.