



Member University

The Food Bank is here to support and walk side by side with you, knowing that it is our partnerships that will feed Northeast Georgia. Member University is a new offering, created by the Food Bank to celebrate and equip our valued Members. Please join us for our first cohort, beginning this Fall, in September, and leading up to graduation in April. Gatherings will include organizational capacity building training around key topics (strategic planning, succession planning, marketing, nutrition education, advocacy, etc.) and opportunities to connect intentionally with other Members.

This program is free and will include meals and snacks. To participate, regular and consistent attendance is expected for up-to 2 representatives of your organization.

To apply and confirm your interest, please complete this [online form](#) or scan the QR code.



Member U Schedule

- September 17, 2026, 9 am – 12:30 pm
- October 27, 2026, 9 am – 12:30 pm
- November 17, 2026, 9 am - 12:30 pm
- *Note: we will break for December 2026 & January 2027*
- February 9, 2027, 8 am - 4:30 pm
- March 5, 2027, 8 am - 4:30 pm
- April 22, 2027, 8 am - 4:30 pm (graduation)

The 2026 dates will be hosted at the Athens Branch. The 2027 dates will include field trips, originating from Athens.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should my organization participate?

This experience will build on Member Conference by going deeper into topics related to your nonprofit business and our shared goals. Consider this opportunity your chance to do a deeper dive into any topic that will strengthen your organization and better serve our neighbors.

Who is this for?

This experience is intended for Members who are intentional about growing their impact and capacity, including things like planning for the future, fundraising, and building systems for optimal efficacy.

What is in it for me or my organization?

1. You will be joining a cohort of Members who are experts in understanding the needs of their community and are passionate about solving them.
2. Member U will offer you dedicated time, training and resources to develop short- and long-term plans in concert with other leaders.
3. An outcome of your participation will be a Capstone Project, detailed below.
4. To honor your consistent commitment, we will also provide participation credit to your Food Bank account, which will be applied following the in-person meetings.

What is this “capstone project?”

The Capstone Project is a summary of your key learnings and what you plan to do in the future. For some Members, you can think of this as a strategic plan, that helps you outline your short and long-term goals and how you will get there. If you don't have a strategic plan, Member University will be a great starting point for you to create one. If you do have some plans in place, Member University will help you think about new opportunities and sharpen your focus. You will have an opportunity to present your Capstone Project to the group for helpful comments and encouragement.

Why do I have to commit to regular and consistent attendance?

Each day will have a different topic that builds from session to session to assist you in developing your Capstone Project. Based on space, we will invite you to bring another colleague to gain the same knowledge that will help you build bench strength.

How much time outside of Member U is required of me?

We value your time and do not want to add unnecessary busy work. Before each class day, we may send brief pre-work or topics to consider. Depending on your current planning process, the Capstone Project may require some homework to prepare for your graduation presentation. We will provide an easy-to-follow template and offer office hours to support you along the way.