Recognizing the important role that boards play in the overall health of nonprofit organizations, Staff is proposing three potential program models.
The Trust’s Enrichment Initiatives seek to nurture and strengthen sectors of particular interest to the Trust by

• addressing difficult and persistent issues,

• enhancing the quality and capacity of individual organizations, and

• improving the abilities and skills of those who are in positions of organizational leadership.
**Vision:** Mission-centered organizations are flourishing and fulfilling the mission to which they are called, becoming a light to the world, and serving to contribute to healthy individuals, healthy families and healthy communities.
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We continue to learn and receive feedback on boards through:

- Discussions quarterly about boards effectiveness in grants review process
- Trustees and staff experiences and interactions w/ boards
- Nonprofit support organizations identifying this issue: ECFA, PNW, The Foraker Group (Alaska), Non-profit Support Organizations, etc.
- Experience and interaction in capacity-building events

Boards are Critical
Foundation to Great Organizations
We have come to see that at least four characteristics must be present for boards to be effective:

**Be Engaged** – Know the mission and programs
**Be Effective** – Know best practices of boards
**Sustain and Nurture** – By bringing resources and support to do the work
**Be Good Stewards** – Know how to care for the mission and leaders of the organization
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Board development efforts that promote best practices are most effective when they are:

1. **Mission-centered** – Mission, mission, mission
2. **Engagement approach** – Encourage all members to bring their best to the work
3. **Customized coaching** – Someone who understands the organization and the practices of best boards
4. **Practical education** – Informed by well thought out organization, but very practical and applied next steps
5. **Sustainability** – Recommend practices that can be sustained as board members change
6. **Duration and accountability** – Measure, feedback and improvement indicators

**Boards are Critical:**

*engaged, effective, sustaining, stewarding*
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**Board development efforts that promote best practices are most effective when they are:**

Program Deliverables

1. Vision/strategic plan
2. Short, clear policy notebook
3. Recruitment/orientation program
4. Process for self-assessment

Training Program “DNA” of Effective Board Education

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Board development efforts that promote best practices are most effective when they are:

**Outcomes**
- Healthy executive director, executive leadership team, healthy board, healthy board chair/CEO relationship

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Govern: from Latin *gubernāre* to steer (a vessel), hence to direct, rule, govern, Greek *κυβερνᾶν* to steer, to guide, to navigate.

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**Strong non-profit organizations become most effective when organizational leadership (Boards & Leadership) steward the mission and navigate the organization to serve those it seeks to serve.**

**Boards are Critical:**

*engaged, effective, sustaining, stewarding*