



News Release

Contact: Amy Wilczynski
586.945.1250
amywpr@gmail.com

Advancing Macomb Opens Applications for Third Nonprofit Accelerator Cohort Leadership Development Program Builds Capacity of Small Nonprofits Serving Macomb County

Mount Clemens, Mich. (Feb. 2, 2026) – Advancing Macomb, a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents, is now accepting applications for the Spring 2026 cohort of its Nonprofit Accelerator, a leadership development program designed to strengthen the operations, sustainability and impact of small to mid-size nonprofit organizations serving Macomb County residents.

Launched last year, the Advancing Macomb Nonprofit Accelerator provides a four-month cohort-based learning experience to help nonprofit leaders build skills, expand networks and access resources to grow their organizations from the inside out. The spring session will run from March 10 through June 5, 2026, combining in-person and virtual sessions led by expert partners on topics including:

- Board development and governance
- Financial planning and fundraising
- Strategic planning and executive leadership
- Communications, marketing and public relations
- Public policy and advocacy
- Infrastructure, systems and technology

“With each cohort, we’ve seen nonprofit leaders gain clarity, confidence and capacity to lead their organizations more strategically,” said Phil Gilchrist, executive director of Advancing Macomb. “As we launch our third cohort, the Nonprofit Accelerator continues to evolve into a cornerstone program that strengthens the nonprofit ecosystem in Macomb County and helps organizations better meet the needs of the residents they serve.”

“Our goal is to meet nonprofit leaders where they are and provide practical, immediately applicable guidance,” said Meghan Rutigliano, program manager for Advancing Macomb. “The Accelerator is intentionally designed to be hands-on and collaborative, giving participants both the tools and the trusted network they need to build stronger, more resilient organizations.”

The program is free for selected participants, thanks to generous support from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. Upon successful completion, participants will be matched with a mentor to continue implementing what they’ve learned.



Eligible organizations must be based in or serving Macomb County residents and have 501(c)(3) status or a fiscal sponsor. Organizations led by or serving BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) and ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) populations are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications are now open and due by February 15, 2026. To learn more or apply, visit advancingmacomb.com.

About Advancing Macomb

Advancing Macomb is a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents. The organization provides the philanthropic model and leadership needed to cement partnerships between the nonprofit, public, and private sectors, identify and attract resources to fund major projects and programs, and increase Macomb County's visibility. For more information about Advancing Macomb, visit advancingmacomb.com.

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