

# Transition Update

## Center for Nonprofit Excellence Announces Transition to Independent 501(c)(3) Organization

*The ten-year project under the leadership of The Community Foundation of North Central Florida evolves into standalone nonprofit to expand capacity and community impact*

The Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CNE) today announced its transition from a project under the Community Foundation of North Central Florida to an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. After a decade of growth and community impact, CNE will officially begin operations as a standalone entity this Fall.

Since its inception in 2015 as a Community Foundation initiative, CNE has established itself as a vital resource for nonprofit education, support, and advocacy in North Central Florida. Working alongside Community Foundation tools such as the Philanthropy Hub, the annual State of the Sector report, and The Amazing Give, CNE has provided members and the broader community with access to essential learning opportunities, resources, and collaborative partnerships.

"The past year has brought unprecedented opportunities for CNE to expand our impact," said CNE Chief Organizational Strategist Dr. Theresa Beachy. "From greater participation in collective impact work to implementing Coordinated Community Response models for major community issues, we recognized that realizing our full potential required the flexibility and focus that comes with independent operation."

The transition process began in May 2025, culminating in CNE's inaugural Board of Directors meeting on July 17, 2025. Seven distinguished local partners have committed to guiding CNE through this pivotal transformation, bringing expertise across multiple sectors to address current and future challenges in nonprofit education, support, and advocacy.

## Key Changes and Enhancements

**New Location:** Effective August 1, 2025, CNE will relocate its offices to the Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, positioning the organization to maximize access to business expertise and professional community resources for its members. Offices are located at 300 E University Ave, #100, GNV 32601.

**Expanded Programming:** CNE will increase its educational offerings by leveraging local experts and implementing member-driven program development. On November 6, 2025, the organization will conduct comprehensive visioning sessions—both group and individual—to identify priority topics for the coming year's education and support initiatives. Join us for these sessions by registering at [www.cnencf.org/events](http://www.cnencf.org/events)

**Enhanced Community Initiatives:** As an independent organization, CNE will expand its role in community-wide collective impact initiatives, with plans to increase membership among agencies

engaged in targeted work while deepening engagement with existing members at all organizational levels.

## Strategic Focus Areas

CNE's business model will center on fee-for-service programming and strategic membership growth rather than traditional fundraising that could compete with member organizations. The organization will target three key audiences:

- ♦ **Nonprofits** seeking education, support, and advocacy services
- ♦ **For-profit businesses** wanting education on nonprofit partnerships and corporate sponsorship opportunities
- ♦ **Startup organizations** needing business services including fiscal sponsorships, business planning, and program mentorship

"Our vision is to create a sustainable model that serves our community without competing with the very organizations we support," explained CNE Board Chair John C. Barli. "By focusing on fee-based services and strategic partnerships with the business community, we can expand our capacity while maintaining our core mission."

## Commitment to Members

Over the next three months, CNE leadership will conduct individual meetings with all current members to address questions, establish strategy and advocacy sessions, and ensure optimal return on membership investment. The organization's goal is to deliver actionable and relevant programs for staff at all organizational levels, serving agencies of all sizes across the full spectrum of community issues and program development stages.

CNE anticipates finalizing its standalone 501(c)(3) status by the end of 2025, while beginning legal operations as an independent entity this September.

**About the Center for Nonprofit Excellence** The Center for Nonprofit Excellence has served as North Central Florida's premier resource for nonprofit education, support, and advocacy since 2015. Through strategic partnerships, innovative programming, and collaborative initiatives, CNE strengthens the nonprofit sector's capacity to address critical community needs. For more information, visit [www.cnencf.org](http://www.cnencf.org) or contact Theresa Beachy at [tbeachy@cnencf.org](mailto:tbeachy@cnencf.org) or at 352-318-7766



Inaugural Board members: John Barli (Chair), Stephen Walker II, Dr. Karen Ehlers (Secretary), Debbie Frederick (Treasurer) Laura Gruber, Carrie Lee and Victoria Stevenson (zoom)