

The Bridge — Mentor Role Overview

Welcome, Mentor!

The Bridge was built to grow the next generation of community leaders in Barry County — and that growth happens faster when it's paired with real-world experience. That's where you come in. As a mentor, you're not here to run the show; you're here to help sharpen it. Your perspective, career experience, and knowledge of this community are genuinely valuable to our younger members, and we're glad to have you.

Your Role at a Glance

*Mentors are full participants in The Bridge experience — social events, meetings, discussions — with one key difference: **mentors don't cast a vote** on grant decisions. That's intentional, not a limitation. Read on for why, and for the ways your voice still carries real weight.*

Mentor (40+) Membership Fees:

- **\$60** DUE 11/19/26 4:00PM
Or
- **\$15** DUE Quarterly (See “Quarterly Payment Plan Deadlines” listed above for details)

What Mentors Do

- *Attend meetings and social events alongside members (as much or as little as your schedule allows)*
- *Share professional experience and community knowledge with younger members*
- *Lead or co-lead educational discussions and workshops*
- *Offer informal guidance — a sounding board for members navigating career or leadership questions*
- *Help connect members to local resources, organizations, and networks*
- *Weigh in on grant applications and focus areas before members vote, so your insight is part of the conversation*

About Voting

The Bridge exists to build decision-making experience for young professionals — that's the whole point of the grant-voting process. So voting stays member-only.

That doesn't mean your knowledge sits on the sidelines:

- *Mentors are encouraged to share analysis and perspective on grant applications and focus-area options ahead of each vote*
- *Your institutional knowledge of Barry County — what's worked before, what a project actually needs to succeed — helps members vote with better information*
- *The decision itself stays with the members. Your role is to **guide, not decide** — which is exactly what makes it valuable.*

Opportunities to Lead

This is where mentors can make the biggest mark:

- **Lead an educational session** — a "Mentor Spotlight" talk or discussion at a meeting on a topic in your wheelhouse (leadership, your industry, local history, etc.)
- **Help shape workshop topics** — resume building, professional development, or other sessions members have asked for
- **Offer informal mentorship** — one-on-one or small-group conversations with members who want it
- **Represent The Bridge** in the community — introductions, employer connections, and referrals go a long way

Getting Involved

Reach out to thebridge@barrycf.org to:

- *Confirm your mentor registration*
- *Suggest a topic or session you'd like to lead*
- *Ask about upcoming meetings and events*

Thank You