The Communities of Excellence 2026 National Learning Collaborative is made up of communities from across the country learning and sharing together. Communities in the Alumni Group have completed the 3-Phase National Learning Collaborative and are continuing to work in their respective communities to sustain their community excellence group's efforts and grow community engagement and visible progress towards community performance excellence that improves outcomes in the areas of health, education, the economy, housing, and other aspects of quality of life.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Continue your community excellence group's [CEG] participation in your Communities of Excellence [COE] Journey.
2. Design, manage, and improve your key CEG processes with a focus on innovation and sustainability.
3. Contribute to the COE Alumni Group culture of learning by sharing successes, challenges, and promising practices.
4. Support the spread of community performance excellence by continuing to be contributors to and ambassadors for the evolution of the COE Framework.
5. Learn about and engage with the other communities in the COE National Learning Collaborative and Alumni Group.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Access to new tools, resources, and promising practice examples in sessions and in the COE online portal that are updated with the new 2023-2024 revision of The Communities of Excellence Framework.

SCHEDULE:

All sessions are held on the second Tuesday and third Monday of the month via Zoom from 9:00 – 10:00 am PT (1 hour) unless otherwise noted*.

September 19, 2023*	**Special Leadership Onboarding Mini-Retreat** *(9:00 am – 1:00 pm PT, 4 hours)*
October 10, 2023	Session 1: **NO SESSION – Preparing to Share at the Fall Conference**
October 15-17, 2023	**Annual Kick-Off Conference: "Inspire"** | *Milwaukee, WI*
November 14, 2023	Session 2A: **Backbone Structure Opportunities That Support Collaboration**
November 20, 2023	Session 2B: **Community Resiliency & Excellence Measures** | *All Cohorts and Alumni*
December 12, 2023	Session 3A: **Navigating Non-partisan Collaboration in Politically Divisive Times**
December 18, 2023	Session 3B: **Volunteers Are the Heart and Soul of Your Community** | *All Cohorts and Alumni*
January 9, 2024	Session 4A: **OPEN TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED BY GROUP BASED ON CURRENT NEEDS**
January 15, 2024	Session 4B: **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in the COE Framework** | *All Cohorts and Alumni*
February 13, 2024	Session 5A: **The Advantages and Challenges of Practicing Innovation and Intelligent Risk**
February 19, 2024	Session 5B: **Funding Your Community Collaboration Efforts** | *All Cohorts and Alumni*
March 12, 2024	Session 6A: **Finding Resiliency Through Design-Thinking**
March 18, 2024	Session 6B: **The Why and How of Writing to the COE Framework** | *All Cohorts and Alumni*
April 9, 2024	Session 7A: **Systems Leadership Habits**

April 15, 2024   Session 7B: **The Value of Branding and Pitch Decks** | *All Cohorts and Alumni*

May 14, 2024   **Session 8A: Assessing Your Community Excellence Group's Progress**

May 20, 2024   Session 8B: **Telling Meaningful Stories That Motivate** | *All Cohorts and Alumni*

June 11, 2024   **Session 9A: NO SESSION – Working on Your Application for Assessment and Recognition**

June 17, 2024   Session 9B: **Balanced Processes for Prioritization & Segmentation** | *All Cohorts and Alumni*

July 9, 2024*   **Session 10A: OPEN TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED BY GROUP BASED ON CURRENT NEEDS**

July 15, 2024   Session 10B: **Leadership Models in Community Development** | *All Cohorts and Alumni*

August 13, 2024   **Session 11A: Succession Planning and Practicing at All Milestones of the Journey**

August 19, 2024   Session 11B: **Developing Your Website and Online Platforms** | *All Cohorts and Alumni*

September 10, 2024 **Session 12A: Leading Through Conflicting Perspectives**