

# 2018 Innovation Engineering Cohort

Deadline for Applications: Dec. 18, 2017

Direct questions to [Rehana Absar](#), associate director of the Center on Leadership.

Human-serving organizations must seize the benefits of innovation, as they face extreme pressures to generate meaningful unique ideas and effective solutions to tough challenges with limited resources. More and more, organizations are realizing the need to reinvent themselves and the social sector. There is a way to learn the fundamentals and stop just talking about innovation.

The answer lies in Innovation Engineering, a new science developed by [Eureka! Ranch](#) that democratizes innovation from a field dominated by corporate gurus, to a mindset and culture that can be adopted by the social sector. Innovation Engineering allows for increased speed in innovations and decreases the risk.

The Alliance for Strong Families and Communities has developed the Innovation Engineering cohort to provide an intensive experience with cohort support that holds the potential to help social sector organizations stay ahead of the curve and achieve lasting community impact through the development of meaningful unique ideas.

The cohort is appropriate for organizations that need assistance in:

- Pursuing new strategic opportunities in response to disruptive forces from uncertain political and economic climates
- Developing the capacity to innovate quickly and fail cheaply
- Planning for innovative long-term strategies
- Networking with diverse social sector organizations from across the country

The Alliance will select up to six (6) organizations for participation in this cohort.

**Organizations that are minority-led and that serve minority populations are especially encouraged to apply.**

*“We ... are at a crossroads and our futures will be determined by our ability to innovate. Without innovation and new ways of thinking and solving problems, we will become obsolete, like the many businesses that are no longer with us as a result of the changing times. We believe that innovation is a daily must!”*

*—Current Innovation Engineering cohort member*



## QuickStart™ Course

Cohort organizations will complete a Eureka! Ranch Innovation Engineering QuickStart™ course to fully immerse themselves in the Innovation Engineering fundamentals. The Alliance has negotiated a discounted rate of \$2,000 per participant in the QuickStart™ course—a savings of \$1,000 per participant compared to the price for for-profits! The QuickStart™ course increased participants' confidence in their ability to create meaningful unique ideas, to communicate and commercialize meaningful unique ideas, and their all-around systems thinking.

Eureka! Ranch is offering many opportunities for this blended online and in-person QuickStart™ course between now and early 2018. After completing the coursework, cohort members receive special access into a 12-month cohort experience including:

- Deeply discounted access to Eureka! Ranch Innovation Engineering QuickStart™ courses and online portal resources; **this online portal access is valued at \$12,000**
- Twelve months of cohort networking with other Alliance members using Innovation Engineering in their everyday work
- Access to Eureka! Ranch's Innovation Engineering Certified Black Belt facilitators; **this access to coaching is valued at \$30,000**
- Innovation Engineering Blue Belt Certification

## Participation Fees and Expenses

The amount paid varies by number of participants, with a portion of the fees is being generously supported by Eureka! Ranch. At minimum, the Alliance recommends including a top executive (e.g., CEO, executive director, COO, or vice president) and a person responsible for leading programs/services (e.g., chief program officer).

Number of Participants	Total Fee for Organizations <sup>1</sup>
Two	\$13,860
Three	\$15,860
Four	\$15,860 <sup>2</sup>
Five	\$19,860
Six	\$21,860

The participation fee covers:

- Access to a black belt facilitator
- Monthly cohort networking
- Registration fees for Eureka! Ranch Innovation QuickStart™ Courses (in-person and online)
- Program materials

The Alliance will invoice organizations monthly over the course of this program, unless other arrangements are made between the Alliance and your organization.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes fees for participation to Eureka! Ranch Innovation QuickStart™ course. All fees are payable to the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities.

<sup>2</sup> This discounted pricing for four (4) team members is courtesy of Eureka! Ranch.



## Discount QuickStart™ Course Hosts

Organizations that host an Innovation Engineering QuickStart™ course will receive an additional \$2,000 discount. The 2½ day in-person course must take place on a mutually agreeable date between November 2017 and February 2018 and must be made open to other local community members (including non-Alliance members). Organizations must provide meeting space with laptop, projector, and internet access; meals; and refreshments. Contact [Rehana Absar](#) for more information about this special opportunity.

*“Going through a cohort process is 50 times better than reading about [how to do the work]. Support is there when it is not going the way you thought it would – coaching, being around people who are walking the walk, and being able to pick their brains.”*

– Previous cohort member

## Eligibility and Application Process

To be eligible for participation in this cohort, applicants must be nonprofit organizations that are members of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities. The deadline for submitting applications is **Dec. 18, 2017**.

## Process and Timeline

**Step 1** Submit a signed cohort application by Dec. 18, 2017

**Step 2** Participate in one of the following in-person QuickStart™ courses; registration must be done through the Alliance to receive your full discount:

- Dec. 11-13, 2017 at the Radisson Hotel Fargo in Fargo, North Dakota
- Jan. 23-25, 2018 at UMFS in Richmond, Virginia
- Feb 6-8, 2018; location TBD—host for a further cohort discount
- Feb. 20-22, 2018 at Longview Mansion in Kansas City, Missouri
- March 20-22, 2018; location TBD—host for a further cohort discount

**Step 3** Complete course to achieve Innovation Engineering Blue Belt Certification

**Step 4** Collaborate with the cohort during interactive web-based coaching calls that will include experts from Eureka! Ranch and the Alliance. Calls will take place once a month from March 2017 to February 2018.

## Key Dates

- **December 2017-March 2018:** QuickStart™ courses; more dates may be added
  - Organizations start the cohort experience after attending QuickStart™ course
- **Dec. 18, 2018:** Last day to submit applications
- **March 2018:** Monthly teleconferences begin

