Students Consulting for Nonprofit Organizations*

*please make a copy of this document

to fill out your application

Client Application

Fall 2026

Northwestern University

About Northwestern SCNO

Thank you for your interest in working with Students Consulting for Nonprofit Organizations (SCNO). We look forward to reading your application and learning more about your organization.

SCNO selects an average of five clients per academic quarter and assigns a team of five students and one professional mentor to work with each client on a strategic engagement. We'd like to establish that there will be two mandatory events to attend, our project kick-off and our final presentations that will be in person. However, we do allow clients to attend virtually upon request.

We invite you to learn more about us by visiting our website: https://nuscno.com. If you have any remaining questions, please contact Lakshmi and Shail, our Directors of Client Development, at nuscnocd@gmail.com.

Application Process

1. Complete this application by **Tuesday, September 12.**
2. Final decisions will be released by **Sunday, Sunday 20** at the latest.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact Lakshmi and Shail at nuscnocd@gmail.com.

Some tips for a successful application:

- Our students are highly intelligent and skilled at working in the hypothesis-based consulting model. Projects should be built around high-level analysis and solving problems your organization's leaders are asking without predetermined answers.
- We avoid projects that provide task-based support and treat students like interns (ex. building out a website or managing day-to-day social media pages).
- We operate on a 10-week program and it is important that projects can be completed within this timeframe. We ask a lot from our students but know that academics come first. Our strongest applicants have a developed idea of the scope of the project that is able to be completed within 10 weeks.
- Communication is prioritized as we search for clients. The best applications will have a clear leader and point-of-contact who plans on being able to engage with our students on a weekly basis and will attend kick-off and final presentations.

General Information

*****Disclaimer: Please type out as opposed to hand-writing the application. Thank you!

Organization Name	
Address	
Website	
Primary Contact Name	
Primary Contact Position	
Primary Contact Phone Number	
Primary Contact Email	
Secondary Contact Name	
Secondary Contact Position	
Secondary Contact Phone Number	
Secondary Contact Email	
Registered 501c3 Organization? (Y/N)	
What year was your non-profit founded?	
Total number of staff (full time & part time)	

Total number of volunteers	
Annual Budget	
Have you worked with SCNO before?	
Have you applied to SCNO before?	
How did you hear about SCNO?	
Would you be interested in a multi-quarter project?	
If we do not have capacity to accommodate your project this quarter, would you be available in Fall 2026 (Sept-Dec)?	

Commitment Requirements

If you are chosen to engage with SCNO, you agree to the following terms:

*Please initial in the boxes to the right, indicating you understand the commitment.

Attend in-person Project Kickoff on **Friday, April 10 at 5PM**	
Maintain weekly contact, by phone or email, with your SCNO team lead	
Compile and divulge relevant documentation for the project before immediately after kick-off and during the project if needed	
Attend in-person Final Presentations on **Friday, May 29 at 5PM**	
Attend two 30-minute exit interviews to give feedback to your project team (timeline for interviews is within one month and within six months post-project handoff)	

Organization Details

1. What does your organization do to serve the community? (250-500 words)

2. Who does your organization primarily serve? How many people do you serve annually? Please include geographic and demographic info if possible.

3. How does your organization measure success? What impact has the organization made?

Engagement Goals

1. What strategic issue or problem is your organization currently facing? How will solving this problem contribute to your organization? Please be as detailed as possible.

2. What has your organization done in an attempt to address the matter? What were the outcomes?

3. Why do you want to work with SCNO? What specific strategic goals are you seeking to achieve through a project with SCNO?

4. What are some examples of workstreams that you envision SCNO members engaging in? If possible, offer some ideas of final deliverables that the SCNO

team could provide to you at the end of the project. (Please email Lakshmi and Shail at nuscnocd@gmail.com if you would like us to provide helpful examples.)

Final Steps

Thank you for applying to work with SCNO for the **Spring 2026** client engagement season. As a final step, we ask that you and a member of your organization's Board of Directors sign below. If it's a logistical issue to obtain a signature, you can submit the application and provide a board member's signature at a later time.

Date: _____ Date: _____

X _____ X _____

Member, Board of Directors *Executive Director/Program Director/Staff*

We will review your application and be in touch regarding next steps. If you have any questions, please contact our Directors of Client Development at nuscnocd@gmail.com.

Thank you!
SCNO Executive Board