


Complete Guide: How to Get Your Flourish Fellowship Membership Approved

Overview

This toolkit contains everything you need to successfully request professional development funding for Flourish Fellowship membership. Most managers approve ongoing professional development when presented correctly – **80% of members get full or partial organizational reimbursement.**

 **TIME-SENSITIVE:** Founding member rates are only available until January 31, 2026, after which prices increase permanently. Members who enroll at founding rates lock in that pricing forever.

What's in This Toolkit

Document 1: This Guide ★ READ THIS FIRST

Purpose: Instructions for using the toolkit

What it contains: Step-by-step process, timing advice, objection handling, tips for success

Document 2: Short Email Request

Purpose: Your initial request to your manager

Length: ~350 words (1 page)

When to use: This is what you actually send as your email

Link: [2. Short Email Request](#)

Why this version:

- Managers are busy – they need the essentials fast
- Hits all key points without overwhelming

- References the detailed proposal for those who want more
- Respects their time = higher chance of approval

Action: Copy this, customize the bracketed sections, and send as your email with Document 3 attached as PDF.

Document 3: Full Detailed Proposal

Purpose: Complete information for thorough review

Length: ~1,500 words (3–4 pages)

When to use: Attach as PDF to your short email

Link: [3. Full Detailed Proposal](#)

Why this version:

- Provides all details for managers who want comprehensive information
- Useful for HR or budget approval processes
- Your reference document for follow-up conversations
- Shows you've done your homework

Action: Save as "Flourish_Fellowship_PD_Request.pdf" and attach to your email.

Step-by-Step: How to Use This Toolkit

STEP 1: Prepare Your Documents (15 minutes)

Customize the Short Email (Document 2):

- Replace **[Manager/Budget Authority Name]** with their actual name
- Fill in **[specific project/partnership]** with a real example from your current work
- Add **[Your Name]**, **[Your Title]**, **[Contact Information]**


Customize the Full Proposal (Document 3):

- Make all the same replacements as above
- Add 2–3 specific examples in the "Immediate Application" section if desired
- Consider adding specific organizational goals this supports







Save the Full Proposal as PDF:

- Name it: "Flourish_Fellowship_PD_Request.pdf"
- Keep it professional and easy to find






STEP 2: Time Your Request Strategically

 **CRITICAL TIMING:** Founding member rates end January 31, 2026. Request approval by mid-December 2025 to secure these rates before they increase permanently.

Best times to ask:

-  **NOW through December 2025** (to lock in founding member rates)
-  Early in fiscal year (when annual budgets are fresh)
-  Early in quarter (when quarterly budgets are allocated)
-  During annual professional development planning discussions
-  After a performance review (especially if it went well)
-  When you've just taken on new responsibilities

Times to avoid:

-  After January 31, 2026 (founding rates expire)
-  End of fiscal year (budgets depleted)
-  During organizational crisis or restructuring
-  Right before major deadlines
-  When your manager is clearly overwhelmed

STEP 3: Send Your Request

1. **Subject line:** Use exactly as written in the short email
2. **Email body:** Paste your customized short email
3. **Attachment:** Add the full proposal PDF
4. **Send:** Tuesday–Thursday morning is typically best (avoid Mondays and Fridays)

STEP 4: Follow Up

If you don't hear back in 3–5 days:

Send a brief follow-up: "Hi [Name], just wanted to check if you had a chance to review my professional development request for the Flourish Fellowship? Happy to discuss if you have any questions."

If they want to discuss:

- Use the full proposal as your reference
- Be ready to explain the value propositions (see below)
- Emphasize the founding member deadline and permanent rate lock-in

If they ask for more information:

- Offer to schedule a call with Maya
- Share the community page: fearlessproject.co/community
- Provide contact info: maya@fearlessproject.co



Understanding the Key Value Propositions

When your manager asks "Why should we invest in this?", here's what to emphasize:

"Founding Member Rate – Locked In Forever"

- **What it means:** Enroll before January 31, 2026 at \$68/quarter or \$204/year, and keep that rate forever—even when prices increase in 2026
- **Why it matters:** This is a limited-time opportunity to secure permanent savings on ongoing professional development
- **What to say:** "If we act now, we lock in this rate permanently. After January 31st, the price increases and we lose this opportunity"

"Most Affordable Professional Development Option"

- **What it means:** At \$17-23/month (depending on quarterly vs. annual), this is significantly less expensive than conferences (\$500-2,000), courses (\$500-3,000), or executive coaching (\$250-500/hour)
- **Why it matters:** Provides ongoing support rather than one-time events, at a fraction of the cost
- **What to say:** "This gives me continuous professional development for less than 10% of what a single conference costs"

"Crisis-Responsive Pricing for Sector Challenges"

- **What it means:** Fearless has specifically reduced rates in 2025 in response to widespread funding cuts, restructuring, and sector transformation

- **Why it matters:** Shows the program understands and responds to the realities we're facing
- **What to say:** "The founder understands the funding challenges across the sector and has made this accessible during this critical time"

"Proven Frameworks with Immediate Application"

- **What it means:** Members learn the POWER Method (partnership transformation), VALUES Compass (leadership development), and THRIVE Roadmap (career advancement) with immediate workplace application
- **Why it matters:** Not just theory – these are tools that can be implemented right away on current projects
- **What to say:** "I can immediately apply what I learn to [specific project], and share frameworks with our team. Plus I'll receive a LinkedIn Certificate of Completion after one year"

"Quarterly or Annual Flexibility"

- **What it means:** Choose quarterly membership (\$68 every 3 months) or annual (\$204 for full year with 25% savings)
- **Why it matters:** Can start with quarterly to test value, then commit to annual for savings
- **What to say:** "We can start quarterly and evaluate, or commit to annual for 25% savings. Either way, the founding rate is locked in forever"

"Comprehensive Support Throughout the Month"

- **What it means:** Monthly workshops, guest practitioners, peer coaching circles, co-working sessions, 24/7 community access, and growing resource library
- **Why it matters:** Multiple touchpoints throughout the month provide consistent support and learning
- **What to say:** "This isn't just monthly workshops – it's ongoing support through multiple formats throughout each month, plus a community I can access anytime"

Common Objections & How to Respond

"We already pay for other professional development"

Response: "That's great that professional development is valued here. The Fellowship complements those investments by providing ongoing, quarterly support rather than one-time events. At \$17-23/month, it's one of the most cost-effective options and can be canceled if it's not adding value alongside our other development activities."

"Can't you just network on LinkedIn for free?"

Response: "While LinkedIn is valuable for connecting, the Fellowship provides structured learning with proven frameworks, expert facilitation, and intimate peer groups where we can discuss challenges in depth. It's the difference between passive networking and active professional development with accountability and support."

"This seems like it benefits you more than the organization"

Response: "I understand that concern. However, everything I learn – the partnership frameworks, change management tools, and leadership strategies – I can immediately apply to [specific project] and share with our team. The investment multiplies beyond just my individual development. Plus, expanding my professional network strengthens our organizational connections across the sector."

"We don't have budget right now"

Response: "I understand budget constraints. The founding member rate is only available until January 31, 2026, after which prices will increase permanently. Could we reserve funds from this period or next quarter to lock in this rate? Or could I initially pay personally and request reimbursement when budget is available? The difference is significant – locking in the founding rate now saves money in the long term. Quarterly payments of \$68 might also be more manageable than annual."

"How do I know this will be valuable?"

Response: "80% of Flourish Fellowship members get organizational reimbursement, which shows other nonprofits find it valuable enough to fund. The community launches February 1, 2026, and members have a welcome call with Maya to ensure good fit. The quarterly membership option lets us evaluate value every three months. Plus, annual members receive a LinkedIn Certificate of Completion."

"Is this just online networking?"

Response: "It's much more than networking. It's structured professional development with monthly facilitated learning sessions, proven leadership frameworks, implementation tools, and expert guidance – all specifically designed for social impact professionals. The community aspect is a valuable bonus, not the primary value."

"Why this community specifically?"

Response: "Unlike generic business or leadership communities, this is designed specifically for purpose-driven, nonprofit and international development professionals. Maya has 20+ years of UN and INGO experience and understands our sector's unique challenges – the funding constraints, complex partnerships, and pressure to balance values with effectiveness."

Post-Approval: What to Do Next

Once you get approval:

1. **Thank your manager** – Express genuine appreciation
 2. **Enroll before January 31, 2026** at fearlessproject.co/community to lock in founding member rate
 3. **Choose your membership** – Quarterly (\$68) or Annual (\$204 – recommended for savings)
 4. **Set up payment** – Provide accounting with invoice details
 5. **Schedule welcome call** – New members get a welcome call with Maya
 6. **Join the community** – Access the private platform when it launches February 1, 2026
 7. **Mark your calendar** – Add monthly sessions to your schedule
 8. **Engage actively** – The more you participate, the more value you'll gain
 9. **Share learnings** – Bring frameworks back to your team
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Need Help?

- **Questions about the Fellowship:** Contact Maya at maya@fearlessproject.co
- **Want to learn more:** Visit fearlessproject.co/community
- **Schedule a call:** Book a discovery call to discuss fit

Final Tips for Success

1. **Be confident:** You're not asking for a favor – you're proposing an investment in organizational capacity
2. **Be specific:** Use real examples from your work, not generic statements
3. **Emphasize urgency:** The founding member deadline is real and time-sensitive
4. **Be prepared:** Have the full proposal ready for reference
5. **Be flexible:** If they can't fund the full amount, propose quarterly evaluation or discuss timing

Remember: 80% of people who ask for this get approved. This is normal, valued professional development across the sector. You've got this! 🚀

Important Dates to Remember

- **Now – December 31, 2025:** Recommended founding member enrollment period
 - **January 31, 2026:** Prices increase permanently, founding rates no longer available
 - **February 1, 2026:** Community officially launches
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Good luck with your request! This investment in your professional development will benefit both your career and your organization's impact.

Warmly,
Maya

Ready to request approval? Use Document 2 (the short email template) to send your request today, with Document 3 (the full proposal) attached as PDF.