

Productive Mentoring Questions

Whether you're new to the community association industry or looking to take the next step in your career, participating in CAI's Mentor Match program can provide valuable support and direction. Navigating your professional journey can be complex — having a mentor gives you a one-on-one opportunity to learn from an experienced industry leader who can guide you through goal-setting, skill-building, and decision-making.

CAI's Mentor Match program removes the guesswork of finding the right mentor, helping you connect with someone who understands your challenges and aspirations.

As a mentee, you can:

- Gain practical insights into professional development and industry expectations
- Learn from the real-world experiences of seasoned professionals
- Expand your network across the community association industry
- Receive tailored feedback, encouragement, and support
- Strengthen your leadership, communication, and technical skills

Your Role as a Mentee

Mentees are expected to actively participate, collaborate with their mentor, and take ownership of their growth. This includes:

- Completing your mentee profile — this serves as your introduction to potential mentors.
- Using the online search tool to find and request a mentor.
- Initiating contact with your chosen mentor and scheduling an initial conversation.
- Discussing your career goals and what you hope to gain from the relationship.
- Creating a meeting schedule and mutually agreed-upon expectations with your mentor.
- Collaborating on a goal-setting plan and regularly checking in on progress.

- Reflecting on your current skills, identifying growth areas, and being receptive to resources and constructive feedback.
- Keeping conversations respectful and confidential.

If you need to adjust the schedule or end the mentoring relationship, please communicate directly with your mentor. For any questions or challenges, you may reach out to our Membership Engagement Coordinator

If the Match Isn't the Right Fit

Building a strong mentoring relationship can take time, but if it becomes clear that the match isn't working, that's okay. You can end the current mentoring engagement and search for a new mentor through the platform. If you experience any misconduct or need support handling a concern, please contact our Member Services Team complete freedom, what would you do?

- What kind of support do you need, and from whom?
- What other options can you explore?
- What lessons have you learned so far? How will you apply them?
- What are the risks and rewards of this approach?
- What additional details might be important here?