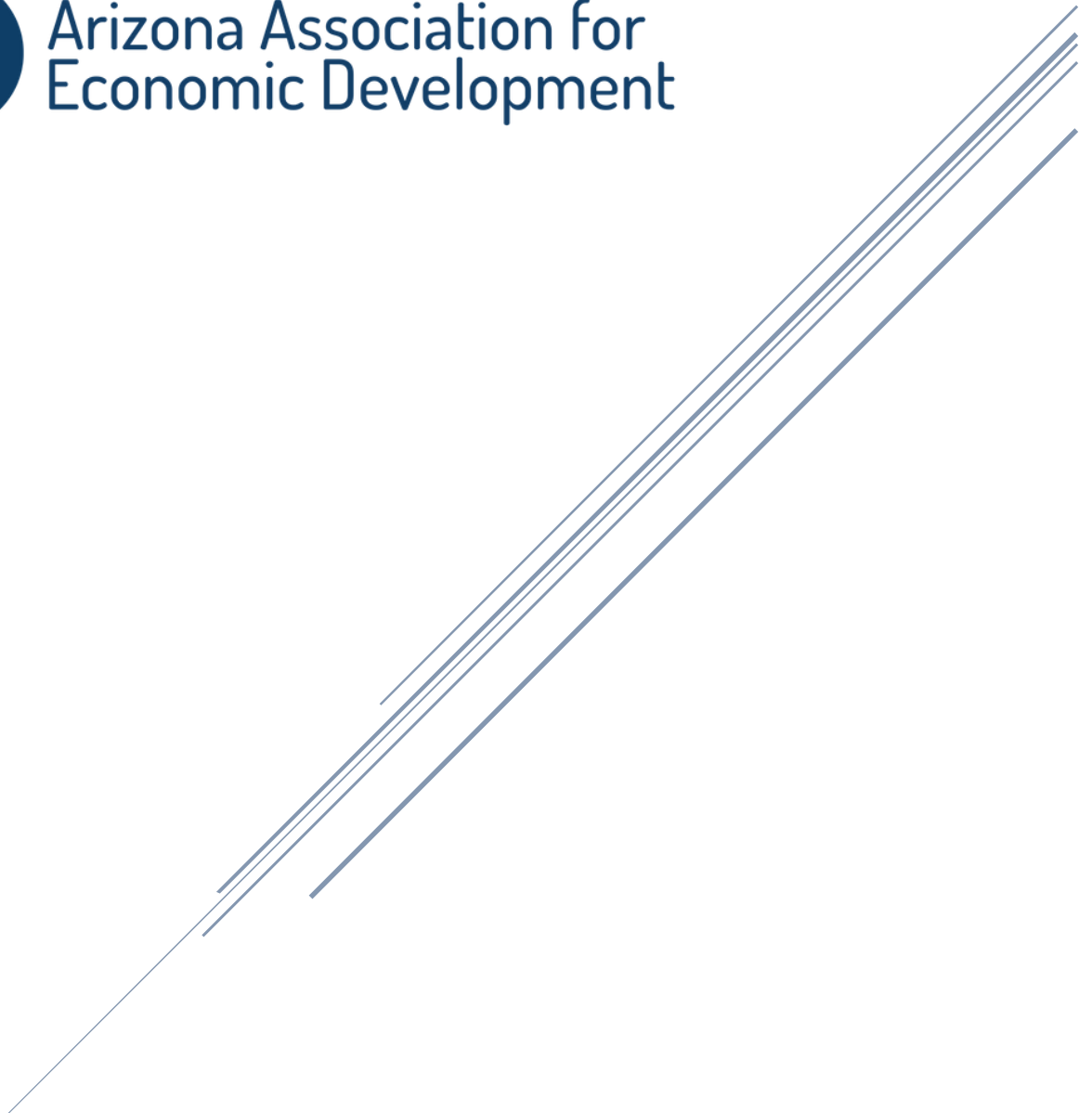


AAED AZED PRO COHORT PROGRAM



Arizona Association for
Economic Development



August 2023

AAED's AZED Pro Cohort-based learning allows Arizona's economic development professionals to earn AAED's AZED Pro certification in a unique team setting centered on relationships, creativity, and peer-learning.

What's The Difference Between Obtaining My AZED Pro Certification Through Cohort Learning and On My Own?

- A clear start and completion date
- Register once, pay once. No individual course registrations required
- Enhanced networking experience with top economic development professionals around the state
- Team based education that prioritizes relationships, creativity, and peer-learning, both inside and outside the classroom
- Recognition as a cohort at AAED ceremony
- Cohort year and symbol printed on AZED Pro Certificate
- Access to a cohort practitioner. The practitioner is an experienced economic development professional. The cohort will have a kickoff dinner and virtual lunch and learns with the practitioner.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What happens if I am unable to attend one of the scheduled classes?

A: To support the needs of AAED members pursuing their AZED Pro certification, a member may miss one (1) course and continue to attend future courses with their cohort. They are recognized as a member of the cohort and may attend the graduation ceremony. They will not receive their certificate or official certification until they complete the missed course.

If a member misses two courses, they must exit the cohort and complete their AZED Pro independently. They will not be recognized as a member of the cohort or attend the graduation ceremony.

Q: What are lunch and learns like and when do they occur?

Lunch and learns are organized and led by the cohort practitioner and provide another touchpoint for cohort members between formal classes. The webinars strengthen relationships and provide time for breakouts and small group discussions to foster meaningful interactions.

To promote maximum flexibility for schedules and interests, all details are determined by the cohort members and their cohort practitioner. Generally, lunch and learns last an hour, are held virtually, are interactive, and may include discussions with industry experts about trends in their field of expertise.

Q: Does the Cohort program's classes occur on a consistent day and time?

A: The 2024 cohort follows the existing annual class schedule.

Q: Will the only people in my classes be from my cohort?

A: No. Any AZED Pro Course may be attended by cohort members or individuals pursuing their certification independently. Cohort members and individuals attending classes are encouraged to network and interact regardless of whether they are in a cohort or not.

Q: Do I get to choose my elective?

A: One of the primary benefits of a cohort is a fixed graduation date. For simplicity, the cohort will participate in the same elective, usually the elective that falls within their program timeline. This does not deny AAED members the ability to take any other AZED Pro electives they wish outside of the cohort.



Q: Why are Cohort classes more expensive?

A: The additional fees cover the cost of the cohort kickoff dinner and any other costs for additional activities/educational opportunities exclusively for their cohort.

Q: Do Cohort members register for each class?

A: The cohort members may register through AAED for all cohort classes with a single, one-time fee after making their initial application and payment for all the courses already scheduled for 2024.

Q: What if my employer wishes to pay as I go instead of a one-time fee?

There is an option on the AAED webpage for pay as you go.

Q: What happens if I prepay but cannot attend a class or multiple classes?

You will receive a full refund when cancelling one week in advance of the scheduled class or earlier. You will receive a credit for a future class when canceling with less than one week's notice. AAED retains the flexibility to make exceptions at their discretion.

Q: Is there an online option for cohorts?

A: No, except for situations where in-person classes cannot be held due to public health restrictions or to make up a single (1) class. To ensure sufficient enrollment, support the quality of instruction and to reap the benefits of a cohort system, all participants must otherwise attend in-person.

Q: Is there any special recognition/benefit for participating as part of a cohort?

A: Participants will receive the same certification of AZED Pro upon meeting all requirements. Participants will have their cohort symbol and name printed on their graduation certificate.

Q: Can I join a cohort after it has already begun?

A: No. You will have to wait until the next cohort begins.

Q: Do I have to be a member of AAED to participate?

A: No, both AAED members and non-members may participate in the cohort program.

Q: Are there any eligibility requirements to participate?

A: No.

Q: Where can I learn more about the program and future cohort dates and deadlines?

A: You can learn more about upcoming cohort opportunities and find registration information on AAED's AZED Pro Cohort webpage: <https://www.aaed.com/page/cohort>.