LENS
LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE NETWORKS
COLLABORATION | EDUCATION | RESEARCH
Advancing Healthcare Leadership Excellence

2027 NCAF TRANSITION GUIDE

NCAF within LENS: What it means for you

A practical guide for fellowship sites, graduate programs and organizations that use NAFCAS.

WHAT IS CHANGING

Beginning in 2027, NCAF becomes a named community within Leadership Excellence Networks (LENS), while maintaining its focus on administrative fellowship excellence.

Why this change?

Healthcare leadership develops across a continuum, from graduate education and administrative fellowships to organizational and executive leadership. Bringing NCAF into LENS helps connect academic partners, fellowship programs and healthcare organizations through shared learning, research and professional relationships. NCAF remains a dedicated community for fellowship standards, recruitment, development and benchmarking.

What continues, and what expands?

FOUNDATIONAL NCAF VALUE	ADDITIONAL LENS VALUE
Fellowship recruitment and NAFCAS platform access with NCAF community selection	In-person Leadership Excellence Summit registration included by level
NCAF peer relationships, fellowship education and program development	Leadership Accelerator Summit (virtual) registrations by engagement level
NCAF annual benchmarking and fellowship practice improvement	Broader peer learning, Discovery Forums, Learning Labs and relevant resources
Fellowship fairs and candidate engagement opportunities	Greater connections among academia, workforce leaders and leadership development practitioners

Which pathway applies to my organization?

STAKEHOLDER	2027 PATHWAY / KEY CONSIDERATION
Fellowship site already in LENS	Individual review of your current LENS and NCAF arrangement. The selected engagement level will determine breadth of access.
Fellowship site not in LENS	Focus ($5,000) provides NCAF community participation and expanded LENS benefits. If recruitment tools alone meet your needs, NAFCAS Only ($1,750) remains an option.
Graduate program already in LENS	Individual review of current arrangements. Academic NCAF participants receive reciprocal access to the Academia & Industry Collaborative.
Existing NCAF graduate program not in LENS	A $2,000 transitional Focus membership investment is available for 2027, including NCAF and reciprocal access to the Academia & Industry Collaborative.
Organization needing recruitment infrastructure only	NAFCAS Only ($1,750) offers fellowship posting, application management and candidate recruitment tools without broader LENS community membership.

New graduate programs entering NCAF outside the returning-member transition follow the standard Focus investment of $5,000. Existing LENS/NCAF arrangements should be reviewed individually rather than assumed to follow a single rate.

What does membership include?

PATHWAY	COMMUNITIES	IN-PERSON SUMMIT	VIRTUAL ACCELERATOR
Focus | $5,000	1	1 registration	4 registrations
Vista | $10,000	Up to 4	2 registrations	6 registrations
Prism | $25,000	Full portfolio	4 registrations	8 registrations
NAFCAS Only | $1,750	Not included	Standard registration	Standard registration

NAFCAS Only is a separate recruitment subscription, not a LENS membership level. The NCAF benchmarking report is included for NAFCAS Only subscribers who complete the applicable survey. Other benefits and event participation vary by level; consult the prospectus appendix for detailed eligibility.

Why the Academia & Industry Collaborative matters

The collaborative connects educators and healthcare organizations around applied learning, leadership competencies, workforce readiness and stronger transitions from education into practice. Academic graduate programs that select NCAF receive reciprocal access, helping connect their faculty and students with healthcare employers and emerging leadership needs. Healthcare-provider participation in the collaborative is available at Prism.

How we will support your transition

We recognize that organizations have participated in NCAF and LENS through different arrangements. Some will see an increased investment, some may see a reduced investment, and others may have no additional NCAF investment. Individualized renewal information will clarify what applies to your organization and help you select the path that provides the greatest value.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Contact cvolpicelli@nchl.org **or** lens@nchl.org **for help with your 2027 membership options.**

View the 2027 LENS Membership Prospectus