



CAF BUILD

Construction Advancement Foundation Building Up Industry Leaders & Development

What is CAF BUILD?

Construction Advancement Foundation Building Up Industry Leaders & Development (CAF BUILD) is a leadership development program designed to prepare the next generation of leaders in Northwest Indiana's construction industry. Offered exclusively to CAF contributing contractors, CAF BUILD provides emerging leaders with a broader understanding of the construction industry, the organizations and issues that shape it, and the leadership skills needed to succeed within it. Through interactive programming, participants will develop both technical and interpersonal leadership skills while building meaningful relationships with fellow participants and established leaders from construction, business, economic development, workforce development, and other sectors throughout Northwest Indiana.

CAF BUILD consists of 6 Modules (See Program Content for module information).

- Classes begin in November 2026, end in May 2027.
- Curriculum and class locations will be shared with those accepted to CAF BUILD.
- CAF BUILD Graduates will be recognized during the CAF & NWIBRT Awards Banquet in May.

Program Guidelines:

- Must be employed by a current CAF contributing contractor.
- Must have 5 years construction experience.
- Nominated by employer.
- Supported and approved by senior management of employer.
- Demonstrates the potential to advance into next-generation executive leadership within their organization.
- Participants must attend every class to graduate.
- Participants must attend at least one NWICA Meeting.
- Participants encouraged to join Engagement & Networking events suggested by program leaders.

Submit Application:

By email:

Send application to Tabitha Refbord at tabitha@cafnnwin.org

CAF BUILD was developed with input from contractors and construction industry leaders to help prepare the next generation of leaders for our industry. Applications will be reviewed by the CAF BUILD Leadership Development Committee as part of the participant selection process. Responses are limited to 800 characters per prompt, so thoughtful, concise, and meaningful responses are encouraged.

Application Deadline:

Monday, November 2, 2026. Only completed applications will be accepted. Applications submitted after the deadline will NOT be accepted.

Application Status:

Upon receiving completed and signed applications before or on the deadline, the CAF BUILD committee will meet to decide on placement for the 15 spots available. All applicants will receive an email stating he/she has been accepted or not accepted into CAF BUILD. The email will also provide additional information going forward for those accepted.

Program Fees

\$750.00 per participant. Fee includes programming, materials, and food/beverage.

Participants may be required to travel for more than one class. CAF BUILD is not responsible for mileage expenses.

Hotel accommodations in Indianapolis are included in the program fees.

Program Content:

- Understanding the Northwest Indiana Construction Industry
- Construction Workforce Development
- Legislative Advocacy
- Labor-Management Relations
- Economic Development and Regional Planning
- Construction Health and Safety

**Note: Content above is not listed in the order classes will be taught.*

Tentative Dates (Subject to Change)

- Module 1 – November 12, 2026
- Module 2 – December 3, 2026
- Module 3 – January 19, 2027
- Module 4 – February 16 & 17, 2027 (Indianapolis)
- Module 5 – March 23, 2027
- Module 6 – Same day as CAF/NWIBRT Award Banquet

All modules are expected to be approximately 6-8 hours in length.

CAF BUILD

Sections 1-3 are to be completed by the nominee. Sections 4-5 are to be completed by the nominator. All sections must be completed with signatures from both the nominee and nominator for the application to be processed. The application will not be processed if any information is omitted.

Section 1: Personal Information

Please provide CAF with the following information.

Have you previously applied to CAF BUILD?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Last Name

First Name

M.I.

Email

Cell Phone Number

Food allergies and/or Dietary Restrictions:

Employer

Employer Address, City, State, Zip

Current Title/Position

Employer Phone Number

How long have you been employed with your current employer?

How long have you been in the construction industry?

Have you held any other positions with your current employer other than your current position?

If yes, please provide what those positions were and how long you held those positions.

Section 2: Goals

Please provide CAF with answers to the following questions.

Note: Applicant may include additional content in the application with an additional attachment.

What are your career goals?

Why are you a good candidate for CAF BUILD?

What do you hope to gain from participating in CAF BUILD?

Section 3: Conditions of Application

Please read the following information thoroughly, then sign as agreement of the application statement. By signing your name to this application, you are acknowledging that you have read, understood, and accept the following conditions. Your application will not be processed without your signature.

I am committed to attending each class and understand that I may be dismissed for absence issues. I am aware that the class locations given ahead of time are subject to change; however CAF BUILD will provide any information that changes via email. If my contact information changes at any given time during CAF BUILD, I understand that I am responsible for informing CAF BUILD of these changes in a timely manner. I understand that CAF BUILD is for educational purposes only and graduation of the program does not constitute any licensing and/or certification. I understand that this application will not be processed without my signature.

END

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Section 4: Nomination

Please provide CAF with answers to the following questions.

The primary goal of CAF BUILD is to provide education and resources that will allow your next generation team leaders to take their leadership to the next level. Please explain how you feel your nominee exhibits leadership qualities within your organization now, and what your leadership goals for this nominee are for the future.

Section 5: Conditions of Nomination

Please read the following information thoroughly, then sign as agreement of the application statement. By signing your name to this application, you are acknowledging that you have read, understood, and accept the following conditions. Your nominee's application will not be processed without your signature.

I am committed to allowing the nominee to attend each class and understand that they may be dismissed for absence issues. If my contact information changes at any given time during CAF BUILD, I understand that I am responsible for informing CAF of these changes in a timely manner. I understand that CAF BUILD is for educational purposes only and graduation of the program does not constitute any licensing and/or certification. I understand that this application will not be processed without my signature and the nominee's signature.



Signature

Printed Name

Date

Current Title/Position

Email

Contact Phone Number