

Frequently Asked Questions on the BNI Givers Gain Program

What is the BNI Givers Gain Program?

Due to the economic impact of this crisis, many Members' businesses may be temporarily/permanently closed and unable to fulfill referrals, or Members may have been laid off from their employers. For these Members, continuing to hold a seat in their BNI Chapter without a category/business to represent is not possible. Recognizing that these impacted Members still need their networks for both business and social reasons, and that these Members can still give referrals and even receive (albeit different) referrals, we have created the BNI Givers Gain program. Members who apply to change their classification to the Generalist Seat BNI Givers Gain program will be awarded with this "generalist" category and can continue their BNI Membership without representing a specific business category.

What if many Members in my Chapter hold the Generalist seat under the BNI Givers Gain program?

There is no limit to the number of Generalist seats under the BNI Givers Gain program in a given Chapter. We believe the value of BNI extends beyond passing referrals, and that continuing to build close and meaningful relationships with your fellow chapter members is of the utmost importance during this pandemic.

How do I apply for the BNI Givers Gain program?

The application for the BNI Givers Gain program is located on your regional website on the LT/Member Resources page under COVID-19 Member Resources. Interested Members will download and fill out the application and then submit it to their Membership Committee for approval. If approved, the Leadership Team will then submit the approved application to the CORE Support Team through the link on the Regional website. The CORE Support Team will update the Member's profile in BNI Connect to reflect the Generalist classification.

Will my original category be held while I hold the BNI Givers Gain program?

Once accepted into the BNI Givers Gain program, your category will be opened in the Chapter. The Chapter will not be able to hold your seat, as there may be others who need that spot in order to help their business survive during this challenging time.

Will my membership be paused while I am in the BNI Givers Gain program?

Your membership time will continue to run while you are in BNI Givers Gain program. You will continue to have the same benefits of your BNI membership and the same level of access within BNI Connect. This includes, but is not limited to, BNI Connect, bni online, and BNI University. Additionally, you are able to keep your business network intact, strategize with your referral partners and continue to give support your fellow referral partners.

What happens when I am up for renewal?

BNI is currently offering the BNI Membership Hardship Application for upcoming renewals. This application was created to support the BNI Members who have been hit the hardest by COVID-19, so that we may provide some relief to them. Acceptance to the program extends a Member's renewal date by 3 months among other benefits. If you are interested in applying, please reach out to your Chapter Vice-President or your Director for more information. The Membership Hardship Application can also be found on your regional website on the Member/LT resources page under COVID-19 Member Resources. This

program applies to Members whose renewals were/are due on April 1 or May 1 and is re-evaluated on a monthly basis.

What do I need to do to resume my old category or apply for a new category?

This process has not changed. Members who wish to change their category, i.e. resume their old category or apply for a new category, will need to complete a new BNI Member application and submit it for Membership Committee approval. There is no application fee to apply for a category change. If you are up for renewal, your yearly Membership fee will be due at that time.

Can I apply for the Membership Hardship Application more than once?

We are constantly evaluating the current economic situation and plan to determine the Membership Hardship Application on a month-to-month basis.

How long can I remain in the Givers Gain program?

At the present time, the Generalist seat under the Givers Gain program will remain a category option until December 31, 2020. We plan to reevaluate and/or extend the current situation as the economic landscape evolves.

