BNI Givers Gain Program Application

We know that many people across the world have been impacted by COVID-19 in myriad ways. Our focus continues to be on how we can support BNI Members in their businesses to achieve their personal and professional goals. This application is created to support the BNI Members who have been hit the hardest by COVID-19 and have lost the ability to represent their classification in their Chapter but still wish to maintain their Membership.

1. Your Name

2. Your Email Address

3. Do you own your seat or is it owned by your company? (If the seat is company owned, please attach a written statement transferring Membership to you to be eligible for this program.)

4. Have you lost your job, closed your business, or in some other way lost the ability to represent your classification in your Chapter?
   ⬭ a. Yes
   ⬭ b. No

5. In 250 words or less, please detail how COVID-19 has eliminated/reduced the ability for you to represent your classification. The more specific you can be, the better we may be able to support you.

6. In 250 words or less, what is your strategy for utilizing the Givers Gain program/Generalist classification in your Chapter to secure future business development opportunities?

Terms and Conditions

The Givers Gain program applies to members who have had to close their business and are unable to fulfill referrals or members who have lost their job as a result of Covid-19. The program is only available to the owner of the BNI seat. If you held a BNI seat paid for by a company and want to continue your membership in the chapter, you will need to provide a written statement from the company transferring the membership dues to you or invest in a membership.

Alumni who currently have a Certificate of Credit may apply to rejoin a chapter under a Giver's Gain program by completing an application and submitting the Certificate of Credit. No additional fees will be due upon acceptance into the Givers Gain program. The member will then be listed on the Generalist category.

Upon your acceptance into the Givers Gain program, your category in your chapter will be revised to reflect Generalist and your former category will be opened in the chapter. In addition, your membership dues will continue to run during your time in the Giver's Gain program.

When you return to your former category or a new category, you will reapply with an official BNI application for Membership Committee approval. The BNI application fee will not apply to the BNI Givers Gain application process.

If you are due to renew while in the Givers Gain program and still experiencing financial distress, you are encouraged to apply for the membership hardship application to potentially extend your renewal date by three months.

There is no limit to the number of approved members in the Givers Gain program in each Chapter and approval is at the discretion of the Chapter's Membership Committee.

The Givers Gain program will end on December 31, 2020. Any member in a Givers Gain program will be required to reapply to join a chapter in an open classification no later than December 31, 2020. If the member is does not reapply to an open classification on December 31, 2020, their generalist seat will be opened, and a Certificate of Credit will be issued for any remaining membership time.

BNI reserves the right to update the Terms and Conditions of this program at any time.

_____   _____   _____
Applicant Signature   Date   Clearly Print Name

_____   _____
Date Approved/Declined   Membership Committee Signature

_____   _____
Date Applicant Notified   Membership Committee Name

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.