



Enhancing Trust

Excellence in Leader Care Standard Executive Summary

Inspired by ECFA Members



The Concern

Far too many leaders are struggling in isolation as they face the unique pressures, demands, and challenges of ministry leadership. There has been a notable rise in reports of burnout, leaders leaving the ministry, and other tragic integrity failures. All these have devastating consequences for leaders, their families, their communities, and the gospel witness of the Church.



Your Feedback

ECFA has been listening! In one of our member surveys, 94% of senior leaders and board chairs shared that leadership failures are negatively impacting community and giver trust. Moreover, during a period of broad member outreach and listening sessions in 2024, we heard from many ECFA organizations that they lack resources to provide leader care and are looking to ECFA for help.



The Solution

ECFA's new "Excellence in Leader Care" accreditation standard aims to support churches and ministries by requiring boards to proactively care for the holistic health and integrity of their organization's senior leader. This standard is rooted in biblical truth, balanced in its approach, and packed with urgency – the time is now to care for leaders and enhance trust in churches and ministries.

ECFA's Leader Care Standard

- The Excellence in Leader Care Standard is focused on supporting healthy leadership through the board's proactive care for the well-being and integrity of the senior leader. This is critical for ministry flourishing.
- Inspired by the biblical account of Aaron and Hur's support for Moses, ECFA believes a God-honoring board can lift the arms of its senior leader and be a catalyst for the daily and long-term flourishing of their entire organization.
- This new standard gives members significant latitude to design and implement a leader care process that's best suited for their context and meets the spirit of the standard.
- The standard has strong support across ECFA's diverse membership. Local churches, large international ministries, pregnancy centers, rescue missions, media ministries, educational institutions, and more are all welcoming this new standard.
- The process for developing this accreditation standard reflects ECFA's commitment to listening to our members. Over the course of 12 months, ECFA actively solicited member input and took steps taken steps to revise the standard based on feedback received.
- Read more FAQs and find additional board resources at [ECFA.org/LeaderCare](https://ecfa.org/LeaderCare).

Timing

- The ECFA board is currently planning to approve the final version of the "Excellence in Leader Care" accreditation standard in October 2025. This approval will also coincide with the merger of current [ECFA Standards 3 and 5](#).
- ECFA will be providing resources and other support to meet all ECFA-accredited members comply with this standard when it comes into full force for accreditation beginning January 1, 2027.