

[Priya Balachandran](#) is a passionate nonprofit professional and strategic researcher with versatile expertise across the social service, education, and healthcare sectors, demonstrating a deep commitment to driving meaningful community impact.

In her role as Senior Researcher and Development Analyst at [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#), she leads and executes all aspects of prospect development, building a solid, ethical, data-informed program. She has established structured approaches to prospect research, spearheaded the implementation of a new prospect management process, and designed real-time metrics dashboards to enhance philanthropy operations. Beyond her primary responsibilities, she has contributed to organization-wide initiatives, including the Strategic Plan UNITE—Pathway Advisory Committee, the DEI Committee, the Data and Ethics Subcommittee, and the Changemakers Task Force.

Within the broader nonprofit community, she holds multiple leadership roles across key philanthropic associations. She serves on the [Association of Fundraising Professionals Chicago](#)'s Board of Directors and as vice president of AFP Chicago's Continuous Learning Council. She also serves as a faculty member for [Apra International](#)'s Fundamentals program, a board member of [Apra Illinois](#), and a member of the Executive Committee of the [Association of Certified Nonprofit Professionals](#). She has played a key role in launching and driving [Feeding America](#)'s PhilOps and Prospect Research Community of Practice and has contributed to planning sector conferences such as the International Thirukkural Conference and the [Nonprofit Leadership Alliance's Elevate Conference](#). She has presented for AFP, Apra, and the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, among others.

Through this wide-ranging work, Priya continues to pursue her passion for promoting growth and development across the nonprofit sector and the communities it serves.