

North Carolina Center for Nonprofit Conference

“Can-If Thinking: Rapid Strategic Planning in a Time of Constraint”

Participant Worksheet Applying Propelling Questions and Can-if Statements to Your Context

1. Participants on Your Own

Step 1: List your bold ambition (what measurable impact do you seek to have?)

Step 2: Identify a significant constraint (money, time, people, method, alignment)

Step 3: Name your lane (where can you deliver the most impactful results?)

Step 4: Draft 1–2 propelling questions that pair your bold ambition with one of the constraints you face.

Step 5: Choose one question and generate “We can, if...” responses.

2. Participants in small groups:

Step 1: Share an example of your “We can if” statements

Step 2: Discuss: How could we use a tool like this as you lead your organization?