



CLASS OF 2020 APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

The strength within.

Building a better Maryland takes a special kind of strength—the kind of strength you’ll find every day in leaders throughout our local businesses and communities. At Leadership Maryland, we harness that strength by bringing together local leaders from all sectors, industries, and geographic regions of our state—people with a passion for making Maryland the best place to work and live. Together, we engage on the vital issues affecting our state and work to build solutions for real, actionable change.

Membership Process

Leaders become members through a highly competitive application, interview and selection process. Each year, as many as 52 diverse and accomplished leaders from around the State are selected based on their leadership abilities, career accomplishments, volunteer activities, their personal concern and commitment to help shape the future of Maryland, and a willingness to continue supporting the efforts of organization after graduation. Accepted applicants are required to participate in a year-long concentrated study of the state and its regions. Through this uniquely interactive, non-partisan, educational experience, participants explore the issues, challenges and opportunities critical to the State of Maryland.

The Program Year

The program is intense; the results are rewarding. Leaders come together for a series of retreats, intensive hands-on study, and in-depth discussions that highlight local, regional and statewide issues, including education, economic development, health and human services, criminal justice, environment and multi-culturalism/diversity. Participants learn how interconnected the issues are and how they need to be addressed. The program is continually evaluated, improved and evolves from year to year.

Program Year Goals

- To learn about the current and emerging issues facing Maryland and its regions
- To explore through a systematic educational program, the state's opportunities, needs and resources
- To engage in dialogue with classmates and other recognized leaders who share deeper insight and broad knowledge of the issues facing Maryland
- To develop a network of relationships with a cross-section of leaders; a trusting circle of friends and colleagues
- To identify opportunities to improve the quality of life in Maryland
- To examine the many dimensions and styles of leadership by experiencing various role models
- To go on an individual journey of growth and transformation
- To become a committed member of the Leadership Maryland family beyond the program year
- To have fun!

Applicant Criteria

- Senior-level leaders with significant achievements in career and the volunteer community
- Expressed concern about the future of Maryland and a personal commitment to help shape that future
- Expressed willingness to commit the time and energy necessary to complete the program
- Full support of the organization or business applicant represents
- Additional consideration given to graduates of county/regional leadership programs
- Each class will reflect a cross-section of the state, to include diversity of geographic location, profession, ethnicity, age and gender
- A willingness to continue supporting the efforts of the organization after graduation
- Applicant must work or live in Maryland

Application Process

Visit www.leadershipmd.org, click the “APPLY” tab at the top right corner, and complete the online application form, which requires a \$250 nonrefundable Application Fee (personal check or VISA or MasterCard), two references, one recommendation letter, an Authorizing Official Statement (unless you are self-employed or are your own supervisor), and a professional color photo. Completed application and fee must be received **by 5:00 p.m. OCTOBER 31, 2019**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Selection Process

Receipt of your application will be acknowledged by email, at which time you will be instructed to contact the Leadership Maryland office to schedule your interview. Each application is carefully and thoroughly reviewed and each applicant is interviewed by members of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee members come from a diverse and broad cross-section of our statewide membership. Their task is significant, ensuring that each class reflects the diversity of the state in all of its aspects. Due to this diversity and the number of applications received, qualified individuals are not always accepted on their first attempt. During the selection process, the Selection Committee takes into account the number of times a person has applied in the past. Emphasis is also placed on your Volunteer Activities and Personal Statements requested on the application form. All applicants, selected or not, will be notified of their status by email in early February 2020.

Tuition

If selected, you will be invoiced for tuition, which covers all program expenses, excluding your overnight accommodations and personal transportation costs getting to the program location. **Tuition is \$7,350**, when paid-in-full by check or \$7,700 when paid-in-full by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) by **March 2, 2020** (postmarked). If paid after March 2, 2020, tuition is \$7,700, and must be paid-in-full by check or credit card by **April 1, 2020** (postmarked). A payment plan may be arranged; however, the higher tuition amount of \$7,700 will apply. Payment plans may be arranged by calling the Leadership Maryland office.

Tuition Assistance Through Need-Based Scholarships

Need-based scholarships are available. A limited amount of financial aid, up to \$3,675, may be requested by applicants who would otherwise be unable to participate without financial assistance. Awards are based on your personal statement of need, the number of requests received, and the amount of funds available. However, requesting aid does not guarantee you will receive all or any of the amount requested. To be considered for financial assistance, please request a Financial Aid Request Form by calling the Leadership Maryland office at 410-841-2101. The form and proof of income must be uploaded into the online application. Please note that decisions on financial aid are independent of and made subsequent to the selection process.

Attendance Policy

Each retreat/session is two days long and is conducted in different regions of the state. Participants are responsible for travel to and from each session. Once on-site, travel within the region is included in your tuition. Each session begins with breakfast at 7:15 a.m. each day, and concludes by no later than 4:30 p.m. on day two. Participants must commit to attend all sessions, including the **mandatory** Orientation Retreat. Two **excused** absences are permitted (defined as one full two-day session, or two individual days, or a total of 22 hours). Participants are encouraged to save allowed absences to deal with an unexpected illness or family/work emergencies. Please protect the session dates on your calendar.

Class of 2020 Session Dates

March 23 (evening reception)
April 23 & 24 (mandatory)
May 14 & 15
June 18 & 19
July 16 & 17
September 24 & 25
October 22 & 23
November 13
December 8

If the 2020 session dates do not work for your schedule, consider applying in a future year. Session dates through 2023 are available on the website www.leadershipmd.org. The deadline to apply will always be October 31 of the year prior.

COMPLETED APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

(All items must be received for the application to be considered complete.)

- ✓ Application submitted online
- ✓ Select payment method for Application Fee (personal check or VISA or MasterCard)
- ✓ Financial Aid Request Form and proof of income (if requesting aid)
- ✓ Two References (extra consideration given if references are Leadership Maryland members)
- ✓ One letter of recommendation
- ✓ Authorizing Official Statement from applicant's supervisor or CEO (unless you are self-employed or are your own supervisor)
- ✓ High quality professional color photo (head/shoulder shot, jpg or pdf preferred)
- ✓ Paid Application Fee (\$250 personal check payable to Leadership Maryland, 134 Holiday Court, Suite 318, Annapolis, MD 21401 or paid online with VISA or MasterCard)
- ✓ Your complete application packet must be received **by 5:00 p.m., October 31, 2019.**