



## CLASS OF 2024 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](http://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, 2023** 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 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 considers 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 2024.

### **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 \$8,400**, when paid-in-full by check or \$8,750 when paid-in-full by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) by **March 1, 2024** (postmarked). If paid after March 1, 2024, tuition is \$8,750, when paid-in-full by check or \$9,100 when paid-in-full by credit card by **April 1, 2024** (postmarked). A payment plan may be arranged; however, the higher tuition amount of \$8,750 will apply. Payment plans may be arranged by calling the Leadership Maryland office.

### **Tuition Assistance**

Need-based scholarships are available. A limited amount of financial aid, up to \$5,000, may be requested by applicants who would otherwise be unable to participate without financial assistance. Awards are based on your 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 emailing [info@leadershipmd.org](mailto:info@leadershipmd.org). 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 7:00 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.

### **Physical Expectations**

Our sessions are active, and we are on the go most of the time. The days starts at 7am and will go all day with various stops and times we are walking a great deal. Most participants leave on Friday tired from the multi-day activities.

### **Class of 2024 Session Dates**

March 11 (evening reception)

April 18 & 19 (Orientation – mandatory)

May 9 & 10

June 13 & 14

July 11 & 12

September 12 & 13

October 17 & 18

November 8 (Closing Retreat)

December 3 (Graduation)

If the 2024 session dates do not work for your schedule, consider applying in a future year. Session dates for future years will be available soon on the website [www.leadershipmd.org](http://www.leadershipmd.org). The deadline to apply will always be October 31 of the year prior.

### **COMPLETED APPLICATION CHECKLIST:**

(All items must be received **by 5:00 p.m., October 31, 2023**, 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, PO Box 2442, Easton, MD 21601 or paid online with VISA or MasterCard)