



## ENCORE PROGRAM INAUGURAL 1<sup>st</sup> CLASS 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.

### **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, such as 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 yearly due to each class’s input into the topics and curriculum.

### **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**

- Graduates of Leadership Maryland’s Executive Program two or more years ago (2022 class and prior)
- Are a paid Leadership Maryland member in good standing
- 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

### **Application Process**

Visit [www.leadershipmd.org](http://www.leadershipmd.org), click the “Programs” tab at the top menu bar. Then click on the “Encore Program” pull down tab and then sub tab “Apply” and complete the online application form, which requires a nonrefundable Application Fee (personal check or VISA or MasterCard), and a professional color photo. The early-bird application fee for submissions received by 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 15th is \$50. The fee is \$100 for applications submitted after this deadline. Completed application and fee must be received **by 5:00 p.m. September 30, 2024**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

### **Selection Process**

Receipt of your application will be acknowledged by email. From the applicants’ selections, the five top categories selected will be chosen. Then the applicant pool will be divided based on their top topics selected and then reduced by those who did not select those top five topics as one of their top choices. From there each application is carefully and thoroughly reviewed by the selection committee. 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 even though you selected one of the top five topics for that year’s program. During the selection process, the Selection Committee considers the number of times a person has applied in the past. Emphasis is also placed on Lifetime Members and/or have volunteered to serve on LMD committees or the board of directors in the past. All applicants, selected or not, will be notified of their status by email in mid-November 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 \$4,750** when paid-in-full by check or \$5,000 when paid-in-full by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) by **January 15, 2025** (postmarked). If paid after January 15, 2025, tuition is \$5,000 when paid-in-full by check or \$5,200 when paid-in-full by credit card by **February 15, 2025** (postmarked). A payment plan may be arranged; however, the higher tuition amount of \$5,000 will apply. Payment plans may be arranged by emailing [david@leadershipmd.org](mailto:david@leadershipmd.org).

Note that a portion of your tuition, specifically \$500, will be allocated to the Emerging Leader Scholarship Fund. This fund plays a crucial role in our commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive class. By contributing to this scholarship, we ensure that talented individuals from various backgrounds have the opportunity to join our program, regardless of their financial circumstances.

### **Attendance Policy**

Each retreat/session is two half day sessions and is conducted in different regions of the state. Participants are responsible for travel to and from each session and to the locations we visit during the session. Each session begins with lunch starting at noon on Tuesday and goes through dinner that evening ending at about 8 p.m. Then on Wednesday, breakfast starts at 7:00 a.m. and the session concludes by no later than 1 p.m. Participants must commit to attend all sessions, including the **mandatory** Orientation Retreat. One excused absence is permitted (defined as one full session, or two half days, or a total of 10 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 can involve walking and physically moving around during the session.

### **2025 Session Dates**

March 11 (evening reception)

April 22 & 23 (Orientation – mandatory)

May 13 & 14

June 10 & 11

July 8 & 9

September 9 & 10

October 7 & 8

November 5 (Closing Retreat)

December 2 (Graduation)

If the 2025 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).

### **COMPLETED APPLICATION CHECKLIST:**

(All items must be received **by 5:00 p.m., September 30, 2024**, for the application to be considered complete)

- ✓ Application submitted online
- ✓ Select payment method for Application Fee (check or VISA or MasterCard)
- ✓ Attached a professional color photo
- ✓ Completed your three essay questions
- ✓ Checked your Application Fee payment method (early bird rate of \$50 if submitted by 5:00pm on Sept. 15, \$100 if submitted after that, check payable to Leadership Maryland, PO Box 2442, Easton, MD 21601 or paid online with VISA or MasterCard)