



Frequently Asked Questions about Leadership Premier

What is the benefit of participating in Leadership Howard County?

In our adult programming, we know that both the employee and the employer gain from the unique opportunities we offer. For employees, Leadership Howard County offers an unparalleled opportunity for personal and professional growth. Our program will enable you to:

- Develop community connections and networking opportunities
- Meet Howard County leaders, influencers and decision makers
- Learn more about the community and how it works.

Why should employers sponsor an employee?

Leadership Howard County is a wise investment in your most valuable asset: your employees. Our program offers a high level of professional development that also connects them to the community in which they live and do business. In particular, investing in Leadership Howard County offers:

- Development and retention of talent with valuable skills
- Succession planning through the identification and development of future leaders
- Creation of loyalty to your company and a connection with the community
- Investment in the future of Howard County leadership and prosperity

What is the program content?

The core program for Leadership Howard County is its ten-month leadership development program with an intense curriculum of civic information and leadership development. Through site visits, lectures and informal discussion, participants learn how major decisions are made and who makes them. The program also utilizes a team-building overnight retreat that allows participants to examine the concepts of leadership.

The program covers topics such as:

- Business and economic development
- Local and state government
- Public safety
- Education/Lifelong Learning
- Howard County history
- Healthcare and aging
- Human services
- Housing and transportation
- Quality of life: cultural and recreational opportunities

Participants also commit to a “Community Impact Project,” which is a project identified by a host organization – typically a nonprofit organization or government entity – addressing an organizational challenge or strategic issue. Participants work in teams on a consultant basis, performing research and proposing creative, sustainable solutions. This activity is designed to be a beneficial experience not only for the organization but for our participants as well, helping them gain a better understanding of community needs and a deeper appreciation for community involvement.

What is the long term value of completing the program?

With a network of close to 1,300 graduates, our members continue to stay connected to the issues in the community and to each other for personal and professional support. LHC conducts many regular meetings and forums for graduates and other members of the community to meet and learn about issues or resources in the community. These include quarterly breakfasts and luncheons with guest speakers and our annual Big Event fundraiser, which features a keynote speaker with an inspiring message about meeting the challenges of community leadership.

Graduates commit to using their experience for the long-term benefit of our community. They have learned about community issues, developed their leadership skills and the knowledge of how to tap into vital resources. With this knowledge, many graduates serve on nonprofit and community boards and committees where their interests, talents and resources can best be used.

What is the time commitment?

This is a 10-month program, running from September 2018 to June 2019. A mandatory, two-day overnight retreat will be held September 25 – 26, 2018. All other monthly day-long sessions will be held on the second or third Tuesday of the month. A complete schedule will be published by August 2018.

Additional Commitments

Applicants must have the full support (financial and time commitment) of the organization or corporation they represent. They must also commit to the opening overnight retreat and monthly sessions.

How do I apply to Leadership Howard County Premier?

Individuals may apply online by visiting the website: www.leadershiphc.org, and going to the Programs link, and clicking on **Apply**.

A non-refundable application fee of \$75 is required. **Applications are due by the close of business May 21, 2018**

How many participants are selected for each class year?

Each year, approximately 45 to 50 individuals are selected to participate in the program. The Selection Committee reviews applications and selects participants, based upon the merits of the written application and a personal interview.

How much is tuition?

Tuition is \$5,450 which includes the overnight retreat, program transportation, meals during the monthly sessions, and a ticket for the annual graduation dinner in June.

Is tuition assistance available?

Tuition assistance is available to those in need. We are typically able to provide up to one third of the tuition cost. A financial assistance request must be submitted with the application, and is available online or by calling the office at 410-730-4474. Payment plans are also available. While we ask that individuals have the financial support of the organization or business they represent, we also encourage nonprofits and individuals with a sincere interest to apply, as community partnerships may also be able to offer additional financial assistance.