



In the ever-evolving landscape of cybersecurity, where threats are dynamic and challenges are multifaceted, the imperative for effective leadership has never been more critical. Investing in the Premier Program of Leadership Howard County is not just an expenditure; it is a strategic move that yields a multitude of tangible benefits for a cybersecurity firm. Here is the compelling argument:

### **1. Building a Network of Industry Pioneers:**

Networking is a cornerstone of success in cybersecurity. Through the Premier Program, your firm gains exclusive access to a network of industry leaders, experts, and influencers. Forge connections that transcend traditional boundaries, opening doors to collaborative initiatives, strategic partnerships, and a wealth of industry insights.

### **2. Enhancing Brand Reputation through Community Engagement:**

The cybersecurity landscape extends beyond the digital realm; it is intertwined with the communities it serves. Participation in the Premier Program demonstrates your firm's commitment to community engagement. By actively contributing to local initiatives, your brand becomes synonymous with responsibility, trust, and ethical cybersecurity practices.

### **3. Realizing Tangible Outcomes:**

The program's impact is not theoretical; it is measurable. Previous participants have experienced a significant increase in leadership effectiveness, a marked improvement in client trust and satisfaction, and a tangible uptick in project success rates. These outcomes directly contribute to the bottom line and the overall success of your cybersecurity initiatives.

### **4 Future-Proofing Your Team:**

The Premier Program is not just about addressing current challenges—it is about preparing for the future. Leadership development is an investment in the resilience and adaptability of your team, ensuring they can navigate unknown threats with agility and innovative thinking.

## 5. A Wise Investment for Sustainable Growth:

Consider the Premier Program as an investment rather than an expense. The upfront commitment pays dividends in the form of enhanced leadership, strengthened client relationships, and a competitive edge in the cybersecurity marketplace. It is a strategic move that positions your firm for sustainable, long-term growth.

### Conclusion:

In a landscape where the only constant is change, the Premier Program of Leadership Howard County stands as a beacon for cybersecurity firms seeking not just to survive, but to thrive. Investment in leadership development pays off not only in the protection of digital assets but in the strategic advantage gained through informed, visionary leadership. Elevate your cybersecurity firm to new heights—invest in leadership, invest in success.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### What is the program content?

The core program for Leadership Howard County is its ten-month leadership development program designed with a focus on civic engagement, adaptive leadership, and collaborative problem solving. Through site visits, presentations, design thinking activities, and informal discussions, participants learn how major decisions are made, who makes them and ways they can engage in systems change in their home community. The program also utilizes a team-building overnight retreat that allows participants to examine the tenets of leadership.

The program covers topics such as:

- Human services
- Housing and Transportation
- Local and State Government
- Healthcare
- Human services
- Education/Lifelong Learning
- Business and economic development
- Public safety
- 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 more than 1,500 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 to June.

The kick-off orientation meeting is held early to mid-September following Labor Day. In addition, a mandatory, two-day overnight retreat is held at the end of September. All monthly day-long sessions, *usually held* on the third Tuesday of the month, will be published in early spring.

### **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 overnight retreat and monthly sessions.

### **How do I apply to Leadership Howard County Premier?**

Starting in January through May 17, 2024, individuals may apply online by visiting the website: [www.leadershiphc.org](http://www.leadershiphc.org), and going to the Programs link, and clicking on Apply.

A non-refundable application fee of \$75 is required.

### **How many participants are selected for each class year?**

Each year, approximately 40 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 for the 2025 Class will be \$6,400 – the cost includes the overnight retreat, program materials, program transportation, meals during the monthly sessions, and a ticket for the annual graduation dinner held in June.

### **Is tuition assistance available?**

Tuition assistance is available to those in need (nonprofits, faith-based organizations, community activists, small businesses). We can typically provide up to one third to one half of the tuition cost. A 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 support.