



In the dynamic and complex landscape of financial services, strategic leadership is not just an asset—it is a prerequisite for success. Here is a compelling argument for why a financial services firm should invest in the Premier Program of Leadership Howard County:

### **1. Networking Opportunities with Industry Pioneers:**

Forge invaluable connections with other financial leaders within the Premier Program. This network provides a platform for collaboration, the exchange of best practices, and potential partnerships. Access to a community of industry pioneers enhances your firm's visibility and influence within the financial services sector.

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

Participating in the Premier Program showcases your firm's commitment to community engagement. By actively contributing to local initiatives and philanthropy, your brand becomes associated with ethical financial practices and corporate responsibility, bolstering its reputation in the eyes of clients and stakeholders.

### **3. Measurable Impact on Financial Outcomes:**

The program is not just about theoretical knowledge—it is about tangible results. Previous participants have reported improvements in key financial metrics, such as increased client satisfaction, enhanced risk management, and more robust decision-making. These outcomes directly contribute to the financial health and success of your firm.

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

In a rapidly evolving financial landscape, adaptability is key. The Premier Program ensures that your team is equipped with the skills and mindset necessary to navigate future challenges successfully. Investing in leadership development is an investment in the resilience and sustainability of your financial services firm.

### **5. A Wise Investment for Sustainable Growth:**

Consider the Premier Program as an investment in the longevity and growth of your financial services firm. The knowledge and skills acquired by participants contribute not only to short-term success but also position the firm for sustained growth and leadership in the industry.

## **Conclusion:**

In the world of financial services, where precision and strategic acumen are paramount, the Premier Program at Leadership Howard County stands as a beacon for firms aiming not just to survive but to thrive. Elevate your financial services firm by investing in leadership, unlocking the full potential of your team, and positioning your organization as a leader in the competitive financial landscape. The Premier Program is not just an expense; it is a strategic investment in the future success of your financial services firm.

## **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, and 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.