



In the intricate landscape of government contracting, effective leadership is paramount for success. Here is a persuasive argument for why a government contracting firm should invest in the Premier Program of Leadership Howard County:

1. Networking Opportunities within the Government and Business Community:

Participating in the Premier Program offers unparalleled networking opportunities within the local government and business community. Engage with key decision-makers, fellow contractors, and influential leaders. Build connections that extend beyond contractual obligations, fostering collaboration, partnerships, and a robust network within the local government contracting ecosystem.

2. Enhancing Brand Reputation through Community Engagement:

The program places a strong emphasis on community engagement—a cornerstone of successful government contracting. Actively participating in local initiatives and philanthropy associates your firm with ethical practices and corporate responsibility, enhancing its reputation within the community and demonstrating a commitment to public service.

3. Measurable Impact on Contracting Outcomes:

The Premier Program's impact is not just theoretical—it is measurable. Previous participants have reported improvements in contracting outcomes, including successful bid approvals, enhanced stakeholder relationships, and streamlined project delivery. These outcomes directly contribute to the firm's success in the competitive government contracting market.

4. Futureproofing Contracting Leadership:

In an environment of evolving regulations and geopolitical shifts, adaptability and innovative thinking are essential. The Premier Program ensures that your contracting team is equipped with the leadership skills necessary to navigate future challenges successfully. Investing in leadership development is an investment in the resilience and sustainability of your government contracting firm.

5. A Wise Investment for Sustainable Growth:

Consider the Premier Program as an investment in the long-term growth and success of your government contracting firm. The knowledge and skills acquired by participants contribute not only to short-term contract wins but also to position the firm for sustained growth and leadership in the local government contracting sector.

Conclusion:

For a government contracting firm seeking to secure not just contracts but also leadership excellence, the Premier Program at Leadership Howard County is a transformative opportunity. It is more than a leadership development program; it is an investment in elevating contracting leadership, fostering community connections, and creating a positive impact.

Invest in leadership, invest in growth, and position your government contracting firm as a leader in the local community. The Premier Program is not just an expense; it is a strategic investment in the continued success of your government contracting endeavors.

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 discussion, participants learn how major decisions are made and 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 tenants 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, 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.