LEAD Atlanta Class of 2028 | Frequently Asked Questions

Who can nominate me?

Nominations can be made by peers, fellow co-workers, community partners, or alumni of LEAD Atlanta or Leadership Atlanta. Self-nominations are also accepted.

If I applied previous program years and I want to re-apply for the upcoming program year, do I need to complete a new application?

Yes. Since we make changes to the application from year to year, you must fill out a new application every year. Past applications are accessible in your profile if you have applied in the last 3 years. You must use the same login (User Name) to access these.

Is there a personal interview component of the selection process?

The application process occurs in two stages. First, each judge reads every application, scoring each one according to a standard rubric. Afterwards, the committee chooses which candidates will advance to Phase II, which is the Interview Process.

Who selects the members of the incoming class?

A selections committee comprised of LEAD Atlanta alumni representing various segments of the community are charged with reviewing all applications and making a final recommendation to staff. The staff approves the final list as recommended by the selections committee.

When does the selections committee meet?

The selections process takes place February to May.

When will I be notified about my status for the next Program year?

Applicants will be notified of their acceptance the week of May 17, 2027.

How many applicants are accepted for each Program year?

A class size between 50-55 will be selected.

Is the age requirement non-negotiable?

Yes, this is non-negotiable. Candidates must be no younger than 29 and no older than 34 as of September 1, 2027.

What is the difference between official vs. non-official nominee?

An official nominee is someone who has been nominated through their company's internal selection process. A non-official nominee is someone who is nominated outside of that formal process.

Regardless of whether your company has an internal nomination process, you are still eligible to be nominated.

What is the time commitment?

Each program year spans a seven-month time frame. Mandatory events include a two-day opening retreat (one-night stay is required), a Tale of Two Cities Immersion, and a full-day closing program. In addition, LEAD Atlanta hosts additional program days focused on key leadership and community topics. Class members also participate in Immersion Activities, connect with a professional mentor who is a Leadership Atlanta graduate, and participate in a service project that spans the seven-month period.

What is the attendance policy?

Each participant is permitted only **one** absence outside of the mandatory events (Opening Retreat, Tale of Two Cities and Closing Retreat).

All applicants are required to have a commitment from their employer prior to completing the application. We advise

you to check the program calendar carefully. Should you foresee a conflict on any program day, especially a mandatory event, we'd strongly encourage you not to apply this program year.

Are there any costs involved in the LEAD Atlanta program?

Yes, there is a $25.00 application fee as well as a one-time, non-refundable tuition payment of $2,000, which is due in June for those accepted. Payments plans can be set up if needed.

Are scholarships available?

Limited partial scholarships are offered based on need. The request for financial assistance is done during the application process. Applications for scholarships are sent after the Class has been chosen. Scholarships are not granted to all who apply.

What happens after I graduate in March?

At the end of the program year after graduation, all graduates become "alumni" with a network of more than 870 graduates. Current dues paying members of the Alumni Association are invited to volunteer in planning class program days, or volunteer with the Alumni Association. Our active Alumni Association also hosts programs and networking events throughout the year.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact the Leadership Atlanta office at (404) 876-4770, or email LEAD Atlanta at LEADAtlanta@LeadershipAtlanta.org