

2023-2024 LEAD Athens Program Application

LEAD Athens is a program of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce designed to develop effective leaders committed to building a vibrant community. The intense, year-long program explores a myriad of topics including economic development, local industry, health care, government, secondary and higher education, the arts and more. Participants learn about current issues and explore future challenges through monthly sessions and completion of community leadership activities leading to a well-rounded and fun LEAD Athens experience.

APPLICATION:

Deadline: Monday, April 17, 2023 - 5:00pm EDT

Submit application electronically; Letter of recommendation via email.

Letter of Recommendation/Support:

Candidates are asked to provide a letter of recommendation/support from someone other than their supervisor. The letter of support should be no longer than 250 words and should address why the applicant would be a good fit for the LEAD Athens program. Letters of recommendation/support should be emailed to leadathensga@gmail.com, and are due Monday, April 17, 2023, by 5:00pm EST.

ACCEPTANCE:

Candidates are selected on their own merits from written applications received by LEAD Athens no later than Monday, April 17. Each class is limited in size, and those applicants not accepted are encouraged to re-apply the following year. Program acceptance will be communicated by Thursday, May 11 and participants will be expected to commit to the program by Thursday, May 18.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance at the orientation, retreat, and all class activities and sessions is MANDATORY. Participants are expected to be on-time for sessions and are expected to be present for the entire day. Any non-attendance will result in deferred graduation or removal from the program. In addition to attending all sessions, participants are expected to serve as active team members (which typically involves a monthly meeting at an agreed upon time). Participants are also expected to participate in all individual and group leadership assignments/projects. Failure to serve as an active team member may also lead to removal from the program.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING:

Program participants will be expected to follow all health and safety expectations outlined by the LEAD Athens Steering Committee. Guidelines may be adjusted over the course of the program.

TUITION:

Tuition for LEAD Athens is \$2,000 and is due by June 22, 2023 unless you are on a payment plan. Tuition is NON-REFUNDABLE. A payment plan may be arranged with the Chamber. The deadline for final tuition payments for participants on a payment plan is October 1, 2023. Failure to comply with tuition deadlines may lead to removal from the program.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

A limited number of partial scholarships are available. If you are requesting financial assistance to participate in the LEAD Athens program, you must complete all scholarship questions with your application. Participants on scholarship will be required to complete program payment by October 1, 2023.

2023-2024 IMPORTANT DATES:

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: Monday, April 17, 2023 - 5:00pm

Program Acceptance Communication Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023

Program Commitment Deadline: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Deadline for tuition: Varies based on payment plan - All participants must make final tuition payment by October 1, 2023.

***SPECIAL SESSIONS**

Orientation: Athens, GA: Thursday June 22, 1-8pm (Orientation Dinner, 5:30-8:00pm) - *Mandatory*

Retreat: Athens, GA: Friday-Sunday July 14-16 or 21-23 - *Mandatory*

State Economic Development Session: Savannah, GA: Tentative Dates - Please hold: Thursday-Friday January 18-19, 25-26 & February 8-9, 2024, for potential session dates - *Optional*

*Please make note that these sessions are unique and may last into the evening or require a multiple day commitment.

REGULAR SESSIONS

(8:00 am – 5:00 pm unless otherwise indicated)

Thursday Aug. 10, 2023

Thursday Sept. 14, 2023

Thursday Oct. 12, 2023

Thursday Nov. 9, 2023

Thursday Dec. 14, 2023

Thursday Jan. 11, 2024

Thursday Feb. 8, 2024

Thursday Mar. 14, 2024

Thursday Apr. 11, 2024

Thursday, April 11, 2024: Graduation, 6:00- 9:00 pm.

Questions? Please contact David Bradley: david.bradley@athensga.com

1. Personal Information
2. Scholarship Information (optional)
3. Supervisor Form

Personal Information

Name

First

Last

Title (Dr., Ms., Mrs., Mr.):

Name of Preference (nickname):

Home Address

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

State / Province / Region

Postal / Zip Code

Country

Cell Phone

Personal Email

Employer/Business Information

Employer/Business Name

Title

Business Address

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

State / Province / Region

Postal / Zip Code

Country

Business Phone

Business Email

General Application Questions

Number of years living in Athens

Have you ever applied for LEAD Athens before?

If yes, what year(s)?

Have you ever participated in a community leadership program in the past?

If yes, what program?

Please indicate which option best describes your employer type:

- Business
- Government
- Healthcare
- Education
- Nonprofit
- Other

Community Involvement

In order of importance to you, list up to three community, civic, or professional organizations of which you are or have been an active member.

Community Involvement 1

Community Involvement 2

Community Involvement 3

What do you consider your greatest responsibility, skill, or achievement related to your career?

What do you feel are the three most significant problems facing the Athens area and why?

Describe your most valuable leadership experience.

State why you want to be in LEAD Athens, what specific skills/knowledge you hope to gain from LEAD Athens as well as what you can contribute.

Please upload a copy of your professional resume.

Reference Information:

Candidates are asked to provide a letter of recommendation/support from someone other than their supervisor. The letter should be no longer than 250 words and should address why the applicant would be a good fit for the LEAD Athens program. Letters of recommendation/support should be emailed to leadathensga@gmail.com, and are due **Monday, April 17, 2023, by 5:00pm**

Name of the individual who will be providing a letter of reference/support on your behalf:

Reference Email Address:

Reference's relationship to applicant:

Scholarship Consideration

If you are requesting financial assistance, please complete the following questions. A limited number of partial scholarships are available upon demonstrated need. If a scholarship is extremely critical to your participation please answer the questions below. To be considered for financial assistance all questions must be answered completely and accurately.

Please indicate if you would like to be considered for a scholarship

- Yes
- No

(The following questions are optional, based on answer to prior question)

Who is ultimately responsible for covering your tuition costs?

- My employer will either pay or reimburse me for the entire tuition
- My employer will either pay or reimburse me for a portion of the tuition

- An organization other than my employer will either pay or reimburse for all or a portion of the tuition
- I am personally responsible for the entire tuition

Please give no more than three compelling reasons why you should be awarded a partial scholarship. (300 word max)

What other sources are you pursuing for financial assistance (300 word max)

Will you be able to participate in the program if your scholarship request is not granted?

Please indicate the percentage of a scholarship for which you would like to be considered:

Participants who are awarded a scholarship will be expected to sign a scholarship agreement form and to complete tuitions payments by December.

- I agree

(RETURN TO REQUIRED QUESTIONS)

Program Agreement & Supervisor Agreement

Participation in the LEAD Athens program requires a commitment from both the participant and their employer

Program Participation Agreement: Participation in LEAD Athens requires a significant commitment of time and energy. By checking this box you commit to attending all sessions of LEAD Athens, including the retreat. You also agree to all program expectations, including the Health and Wellbeing expectations.

- I agree

Supervisor Name

First

Last

Supervisor Title

Supervisor Email

Supervisor Phone Number

Application Deadline: Monday, April 17th - 5:00pm

To be considered for the LEAD Athens program, all materials should be submitted by the above deadline. If you have any questions regarding submission, please contact Kim Childs:

kim@athensga.com

Supervisors will be contacted to verify that you have been authorized to participate in the LEAD Athens program.