



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Leadership for a Future?

Leadership for a Future (LFAF) is a leadership training environment for emerging leaders from community groups, labor unions and the religious community. It provides an opportunity for leaders from diverse groups and backgrounds to forge relationships and networks that will benefit themselves and their organizations throughout their careers.

In addition to obtaining information from experts about Rhode Island's history, culture, economics and politics, leaders in the program share their experiences and learn from each other. This process creates a powerful, committed, diverse network of graduates who have taken the time to understand and know each other. This network is critical and necessary if the shared goals of economic and social justice for all our citizens are to be achieved.

Who sponsors Leadership for a Future?

Leadership for a Future was founded in 2000 by the Institute for Labor Studies & Research (ILSR). In 2015, a Community Alliance was created to help expand LFAF's reach, especially to marginalized communities and communities of color. The Community Alliance is comprised of the ILSR, the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of RI (OIC), and the NAACP – Providence Branch. We are also fortunate to count the United Way of RI and Working RI as two of our financial supporters. Tuition for 25 participants has been covered through the generous contributions of the above mentioned sponsors for the 2016 class year.

What are the benefits of participating in Leadership for a Future?

For **individuals** who want to participate, the benefits include:

- an opportunity to learn and practice leadership skills essential to making positive social change in Rhode Island
- becoming part of an ever-expanding network of Rhode Islanders from various fields committed to social justice
- access to a distinguished faculty of Rhode Island leaders actively working in the fields they speak about
- the opportunity to plan and implement a project for community change with training and support

For **organizations** who want to send employees/members, the benefits include:

- members with an increased capacity to take on leadership roles
- members who are better able to work on diverse teams
- members who are better equipped to approach and complete new projects
- members who are more engaged and connected to the communities they serve



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What kind of time commitment is expected?

Once accepted into the program, LFAF participants are expected to commit approximately 12 hours a month to attend the required sessions. That breaks down to three (3) Monday evening sessions every month with each session running for four (4) hours. In addition, participants commit to a team action project that will be planned and implemented during the course of the program year. While there is time to work on the action projects during Monday evening sessions, action project implementation needs to occur outside of the LFAF sessions. Preparation for the program Mondays as well as working on and implementing the action project should add an additional hour of work per week for a total of approximately 15-16 hours a month.

When and where are the sessions held and what topics will be covered?

The 2015 LFAF program year consists of one MANDATORY overnight retreat and nine (9) Monday evening sessions. The retreat runs from 5 PM on Friday to 5 PM on Saturday. The Monday sessions run from 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM (including dinner) and are held at the Institute for Labor Studies and Research located at 1540 Pontiac Ave., Suite A, Cranston RI, 02920.

— 2016 Session Calendar —

Friday-Saturday, February 19-20: Leadership Retreat

Monday, February 29: History of Communities and Labor

Monday, March 7: Civil Rights Movement with a Focus on Rhode Island

Monday, March 14: Public Speaking for Organizers

Monday, March 28: RI's Economy—Past, Present, and Future

Monday, April 4: Public Education: Leveling the Playing Field

Monday, April 18: RI's Issues of the Day—Part 1

Monday, April 25: RI's Issues of the Day—Part 2

Monday, May 9: Lobbying for a Change/ Using the Media

Monday, May 16: Project Presentations

Who can participate?

Anyone who is passionate about creating a socially just Rhode Island is eligible to apply for one of the 25 seats in the 2016 LFAF class as long as they can:

- commit to the MANDATORY overnight retreat
- attend at least eight out of ten sessions (including the retreat)
- provide a written reference/recommendation letter



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What does the application process look like?

To be considered for the 2016 LFAF class, you must fill out our online application in its entirety by the **January 15th application deadline**. You can find the application on the Institute for Labor Studies and Research website (www.riilsr.org) or on the LFAF Facebook page. Reference letters must also be mailed or emailed in by the January 15th application deadline.

There are three different sections to the application:

- personal and biographical information
- two short answer questions (250 – 300 words)
 - What do you see as your role in building community?
 - How would you define social justice?
- reference's contact information

Once you submit the online application, you will receive a confirmation email within two business day. To check the status of your application please call our office at 401-463-9900 and ask to speak with Andrea Gómez or Silvia Melgar. Reference letters may be emailed to agomez@riilsr.org or mailed to ILSR, 1540 Pontiac Ave, Suite - A, Cranston, RI 02920.

How will I know if I have been accepted into the program?

Admissions decisions will be announced the week of January 18th via email.

What are the graduation requirements?

In order to successfully graduate from the LFAF program, participants must:

- Commit to no more than two absences throughout the program year, keeping in mind the following requirements:
 - You must attend the MANDATORY overnight retreat from 5 PM on Friday, January 19th to 5 PM Saturday, January 20th
 - You must attend seven (7) of the remaining nine (9) Monday evening sessions
 - Arriving more than 30 minutes late or leaving a session more than 30 minutes early counts as an absence
- Actively participate in implementing a team community action project

A graduation ceremony will take place the week of May 23rd. All participants who have met the graduation requirements will receive a certificate of graduation. Any participants unable to complete the graduation requirements will be awarded a certificate of participation and will be given the opportunity to make up any missing requirements during the next program year.



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Who should I contact with questions about the program or the application process?

Any questions about the LFAF program or the application process can be directed to:

Andrea James-Gómez

Program Director

Institute for Labor Studies and Research

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