



Leadership Engage Class of 2027 APPLICATION



Each year Leadership PBC invites community leaders to participate in the Leadership Engage Program and utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit of Palm Beach County. The selection committee strives to balance the industries, geographic location, and other factors to create a class that is truly representative of the diversity throughout Palm Beach County. While the class members may not work in the same industries, the leaders share the following attributes:

- A PASSION and personal commitment to help shape the future of Palm Beach County
- Significant ACHIEVEMENT in career or community
- An INTEREST in enhancing personal leadership capabilities
- High standards of PERSONAL INTEGRITY
- Personal COMMITMENT to educate themselves on community issues and initiatives
- A DESIRE to support the continuation of leadership development in Palm Beach County

Engage class members aspire to improve our region because they have deepened their civic commitment and awareness of diverse issues and industries. Through the connections, education, and interests developed by our county's most promising leaders, Leadership PBC creates a lasting impact in our community.

Leadership Palm Beach County is a nonprofit organization that brings together leaders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors to build and steward a vibrant, interconnected community.

Since 1983, our unique programs have prepared more than 2,000 adult and youth leaders for a lifetime commitment to doing public good in Palm Beach County.

Leadership PBC's Engage Program is based on an interactive, 10-month curriculum that provides leadership capacity-building skills framed around county-wide issues. Participants meet for one day each month, from September to May, and explore program topics such as economic development, government and civic engagement, agriculture, public safety, arts and culture, environment, transportation and tourism, and health and human services. In addition, each participant will take part in a Leadership Forward project that will solve a challenge in our community while learning to collaborate in a group dynamic setting with fellow classmates and other leaders. For more information about the Leadership Forward Projects, please review the request for proposal on the Leadership PBC website at www.LeadershipPBC.org/Engage-Forward.

Class of 2027 Application Deadline: March 6, 2026

For More Information, please contact Leadership Palm Beach County:

Office: (561) 833-4321 Email: Apply@LeadershipPBC.org

Benefits of the Leadership PBC Engage Program

Participant Benefits:

- Grow in awareness and understanding of the challenges and issues facing our county
- Develop valuable contacts and a communications network within the county
- Strengthen personal leadership and strategic decision-making skills
- Prepare for other leadership opportunities
- Establish relationships built on mutual trust and respect among leaders from diverse constituencies
- Gain experience in group dynamics, team leadership, ethics, critical thinking, and problem solving
- Develop a shared vision to promote positive change

Employer Benefits:

- Expose company/organization name to the community and to other top community leaders
- Attain access to key community, government and business leaders
- Gain insights into community issues that impact your company/organization
- Enhance the leadership and communications skills & natural strengths toward development of a more well-rounded employee
- Gain access to networking and business development opportunities – even beyond participant's graduation from the program

Selection Criteria

Leadership PBC seeks to identify individuals who are most likely to utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit of Palm Beach County. Emphasis is given to those who have demonstrated leadership and community involvement outside of their career, which has long been consistent with graduates' likelihood to continue their involvement with Leadership PBC beyond graduation. Participants will be selected by an anonymous Selection Committee comprised of Leadership PBC alumni. Committee members will award points for each question, and maximum points are listed for each question. References may be checked. This application is only for the Class of 2027 program year. Applicants who wish to apply again are encouraged to do so and will need to pay the current application fee. Applicants must be 21 years of age or older.

To be accepted into the program, applicants should be able to demonstrate leadership qualities through their professional and/or civic or volunteer involvement. We are seeking to put together a diverse group of program participants, representative of Palm Beach County's racial, cultural, ethnic, geographical and professional composition.

Leadership PBC Engage Program Time Commitment

Candidates should only apply if certain of their ability to meet the time commitment below.

- Monthly All-Day Leadership PBC Engage Program Session Days
 - To be considered a graduate of Leadership PBC you cannot miss more than one program day. Participants are allowed one excused absence; additional missed days must be made up the following year, through an approved Leadership PBC Program Day. Missing more than three hours of a program day counts as missing half a program day. Please communicate with the Day Chairs, Program Manager or Executive Director to avoid confusion. If you know you will be missing a program day, please communicate this to the Programs Manager in advance. If your absence is last-minute, please communicate your absence to the Programs Manager as soon as possible.

- Friday-Saturday Mandatory Overnight Opening Retreat - This Friday to Saturday retreat includes a mandatory overnight stay. All participants are required to attend the Opening Retreat in its entirety. There will be no exceptions to missing the Opening Retreat.
- This two-day session gives participants a full understanding of the responsibilities and requirements of the program and serves as an important connection to the cohesiveness of the class and the program. While we understand it can be difficult to carve out a full Friday and a half-day Saturday, we will firmly enforce this policy. If you cannot attend the Opening Retreat, your application will be deferred to next year's class, along with your tuition payment. You will not need to reapply. This includes medical, work, and personal emergencies.
- Orientation is a requirement of the program and will be scheduled prior to the Retreat. If an emergency arises requiring you to miss part of the session, you must have approval from the Executive Director to participate in the Engage Retreat. The Closing Retreat is a summary activity for the participants and helps to create a cohesive closure to the Engage year. It serves both to collect data to improve the experience for next year's class and provides a steppingstone for the new graduate's involvement as an active alumni member. It is a mandatory element of the program for graduation. In the event of an emergency, participants must contact the Executive Director to plan to finalize their program participation and graduation.
- Engage Forward participation and meetings as necessary (Average 3-5 hours per month or about 25 hours total outside of class days, based on prior projects).

Leadership PBC Engage Class of 2027 Schedule

• August 19, 2026	2:00pm - 6:00pm	Orientation
• August 28-29, 2026	7:30am - 1:00pm (Next Day)	Mandatory Overnight Retreat
• September 9, 2026	7:30am - 4:30pm	Civics & Government Day
• October 14, 2026	7:30am - 4:30pm	Health & Human Services Day
• November 10, 2026	7:30am - 4:30pm	Economic Development Day
• December 9, 2026	7:30am - 4:30pm	Environment Day
• January 13, 2027	7:30am - 4:30pm	Arts & Culture Day
• February 10, 2027	7:30am - 4:30pm	Education Day
• March 10, 2027	7:30am - 4:30pm	Agriculture Day
• April 14, 2027	7:30am - 4:30pm	Public Safety Day
• May 12, 2027	7:30am - 4:30pm	Transportation & Tourism Day
• May 26, 2027	11:30am - 6:00pm	Closing Retreat
• June 3, 2027	5:30pm - 9:00pm	Leadership Celebration

Leadership PBC reserves the right to change any part of the above schedule.

Class of 2027 Leadership PBC Engage Program Tuition

Tuition is \$3,250 if paid on time by credit card - or discounted to \$3,150 if paid on time by check. If you are selected for the class, the full tuition amount is payable by July 31, 2026.

The tuition includes payment for your first year's dues (\$200) as a member of the Leadership Palm Beach County Alumni Association. You are encouraged to solicit financial backing from the employer or organization with whom you work or volunteer, and to pay some portion of the tuition yourself. As we do not believe that tuition should be a barrier to participation, a limited number of partial scholarships are available based on need. Please complete the financial aid section of the application if you need this support.

Leadership PBC Engage Program Application Checklist

Please follow these instructions carefully:

1. Obtain the electronic copy of the application and submit the non-refundable application fee (paid online upon completion of the online application)
 - a. LeadershipPBC.org/Engage-Apply
 - b. Application Fee: \$100
 - c. Your application is not valid until the application fee is received
 - d. Payment can be processed online at LeadershipPBC.org/Engage-Apply
 - e. Please be sure to login/register with the email you plan to use in the future for Leadership PBC
 - f. It's always best to use a personal email address in the event you change jobs
2. Essay Application/Letters of Recommendation
 - a. Download from LeadershipPBC.org/Engage-Apply
 - b. Type all sections in the space provided
 - c. We DO NOT accept handwritten applications, unless pre-approved
 - d. Make sure ALL signatures have been completed before sending
 - e. **Save final application as; LAST NAME_APPLICATION**
3. Limit your answers to the requested word count
 - a. DO NOT submit additional materials, such as resumes or examples of accomplishments
 - b. Only responses typed on the application are used in the selection process
4. Submit your completed application packet as three separate files attached to the email
 - a. Application and two Letters of Recommendation, at least one being from a Leadership PBC alumni
 - b. Leadership PBC alumni include graduates of the Engage program ONLY and not current class members
 - c. Letters of Recommendation should be no longer than one page each
 - d. If you do not know an alumnus of our Engage Program, please visit our website at www.leadershippbc.org and reach out to one of our Board Members
 - e. **Please create the email with the subject line: "CLASS OF 2027 APPLICATION - LAST NAME"**
 - f. Email to: Apply@LeadershipPBC.org
5. The application deadline is March 6, 2026, at 5pm.
 - a. All applicants will be notified of their status no later than May 5, 2025.
 - b. If accepted to the Engage Program, you will be required to provide a professional photo/headshot for our directory.

Email your application and recommendation letters to Apply@LeadershipPBC.org and pay the application fee online no later than March 6, 2026, at 5:00pm.

Class of 2027 Application Deadline: March 6, 2026

Program Application Commitment

- ☐ **I understand** that attendance at Orientation, the overnight Opening Retreat, eight of the nine monthly Leadership Engage Program sessions, and Closing Retreat, as well as full Engage Forward project participation, are required to graduate. While attendance at the overnight retreat in its entirety is mandatory, our policies allow participants to have one excused absence (or two half days) from a session day and still graduate with their class. Two missed sessions require makeup in the following year to receive your graduation certificate and to be considered alumni. If participants miss three full sessions or the equivalent thereof, they will be dismissed from the class, forfeit all tuition, and reimburse Leadership PBC for any tuition assistance they may have received.
- ☐ **I understand** and support all aspects of Leadership Palm Beach County's mandatory attendance policy as a condition of my acceptance into the program.
- ☐ **I understand** Engage Forward projects connect class members with local nonprofit organizations to collaboratively address issues facing the organizations and the communities they serve. These projects are an integral part of the Leadership PBC Engage experience and active participation in an Engage Forward project team is required. I am willing to commit an average of 5 hours a month to my chosen Engage Forward project for the duration of the Engage program.

The information submitted with my application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc., shall in no way be liable for any damages I may incur or suffer in the event I am not selected to participate.

Have you ever been convicted of or pled guilty to charges regarding a criminal (felony or misdemeanor) offense?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please explain:

Applicant Electronic Signature _____ Date _____

Leadership Engage Class of 2027 Member Contract

If I am selected for Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc., then in consideration for permitting me to participate in its programs:

1. I understand my application is only for the Class of 2027 program year. After I apply, if I am unable to participate, no deferral will be granted. If I wish to participate in another year, I must apply again and pay the then current application fee.
2. I will arrive on time for the Orientation, Opening Retreat, and each session, and be in attendance for the full day. I understand that three hours or more counts as a half-day absence, and I can only miss one session day to graduate with my class and be considered a graduate/alumnus.
3. I will devote the time and necessary resources to complete the Leadership Engage Program and my chosen Engage Forward Project.
4. I acknowledge that all tuition fees are due by July 31, 2026, and are NON-REFUNDABLE.
5. I have read and understand the class program schedule and my required commitments. I am aware that attendance at the overnight Friday-Saturday Opening Retreat is mandatory.
6. I have the authorization of the management of my company/organization for full participation in the Leadership Engage Program.
7. I understand that if I attend 8 of the 9 monthly Leadership Engage Program sessions, Orientation, Opening Retreat, and Closing Retreat with my class, or equivalent, I will be eligible to graduate with my class and be considered a graduate/alumnus.
8. I understand that if I attend 7 of the 9 monthly Leadership Engage Program sessions, Orientation, Opening Retreat, and Closing Retreat, I am still eligible to graduate with my class in June if I participate in a pre-approved and determined Leadership PBC Session day the following year; this means I am considered alumni the following year only after making up the missed session(s).
9. I understand and support all aspects of Leadership Palm Beach County's mandatory attendance policy as a condition of my acceptance into the program. Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc., shall in no way be liable for any damages I may incur or suffer in the event I am not selected to participate.
10. I understand my full participation and evaluation of each session day is vital to the planning process of the program and commit to completing an evaluation (survey) for each session I attend.
11. I will receive these surveys by email in the final hour of each session day. If I do not receive these surveys, it is my responsibility to inform the Program Manager since they may be in my spam folder, or my organization may be blocking them.
12. I recognize that Leadership Palm Beach County's programs at times involve adventurous, strenuous, and mentally and physically demanding activities (which in past years have included, and in the future may include, but not be limited to activities such as climbing, running, boating, canoeing, and hiking; close-up witnessing of burning and harvesting operations in the sugar cane industry; touring occupied areas of the Palm Beach County corrections facility; and participating in law enforcement and fire-rescue demonstrations).

I will refrain from performing or participating in any activity which I should reasonably believe may cause injury, death, damages, loss or expense to me and/or my property. If I perform or participate in any activity, then, on behalf of myself, my family, successors, assigns, heirs, personal representatives, agents, and representatives:

- a. I assume the risk of injury, death, damages, loss, liability or expense of any kind and nature to me and/or my property which may occur, result from, or is in any way connected to Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc., and its programs.
- b. I release and agree to hold harmless Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc., its successors, assigns, officers, directors, agents, attorneys, and representatives from any and all manner of actions, causes of actions, suits, debts, claims, or demands for injury, death, damages, loss, liability or expense of any kind and nature to me and/or my property which may occur, result from, or is in any way connected to Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc. and its programs;
- c. I will defend and indemnify Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc., its successors, assigns, officers, directors, agents, attorneys, and representatives against any and all manner of actions, causes of actions, suits, debts, claims, or demands for injury, death, damages, loss, liability or expense of any kind and nature to other persons and property which may occur, result from, or is in any way connected to any negligent or wrongful act or omission by me while participating in Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc. and its programs.

13. I realize that my application and all materials and other information submitted to Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc., shall become the exclusive property of Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc.

I understand that I may be discharged from the Leadership Palm Beach County program at any time should I engage in any conduct determined by Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc. to be detrimental to the program. In the event of discharge, all tuition shall be forfeited.

My signature below indicates that I have read, understood, and accepted the foregoing terms and conditions of the Leadership Palm Beach County Program and Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc.

Applicant Electronic Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Applicant Name (Last, First)

Information

The second part of the Leadership Engage Application gives the selection committee insight to the applicant and his/her education, employment, and community involvement.

Section 1. Employment Experience

Describe your employment experience and professional background. Please list up to five previous positions that have provided relevant leadership experience. Points will not be awarded based on number or duration of jobs held but rather on leadership experience and achievements. (Maximum of 3 points, please list in reverse chronological order.)

Organization	Position(s)	Accomplishments	Dates (To/From)

Section 2. Education

Describe your educational background. Include relevant career, specialized, or continuing education training certifications, as well as college and advanced degrees. (Not scored)

Degree/Certification, School	Major Subject Area	Honors

Section 3. Community Involvement

Please list up to five civic, governmental, political, religious, or other activities in which you have played an active role and clearly define your duties in the last 10 years only. Do not include memberships or anything listed in other sections. (Maximum of 10 points, not limited to Palm Beach County.)

Organization	Position(s)	Accomplishments	Dates (To/FGrom)

Section 4. Leadership

4.1 Leadership in Business

During the past five years, what role did you play in your business or work where you used your leadership skills to accomplish significant results? Please identify the specific skills you used and identify the results you accomplished. If you are a full-time volunteer, a homemaker, or are self-employed, answer as applicable to your current role. Be specific in defining the value and significance of your leadership. Not restricted to Palm Beach County. (Maximum of 5 points, 1,000 characters max)

4.2 Leadership in Collaboration

Describe a specific time in your community work or at place of employment where your actions fostered collaboration or helped to achieve consensus where it did not exist. How did your actions affect the outcome of the situation? What changed because of your actions? Not restricted to Palm Beach County affiliations. (Maximum of 5 points, 1,000-character max)

4.3 Community Issues

Part I: Tell us what you believe is a specific issue that must be addressed to improve the quality of life in Palm Beach County today.

Part II: Describe what you would do to address and resolve this issue to build a better community. Outline why this issue is so important and the value of the changes you suggest. Please add statistics and facts where you can. (Maximum of 10 points, 1,000-character total max)

4.4 Leadership Development

Describe what steps you have taken to develop your leadership abilities. Briefly tell us how your leadership skills have evolved and cite some examples, such as certification programs, classes, mentor programs, coaching, etc. (Maximum of 5 points, 1,000-character max)

4.5 Visionary Leadership

Describe a circumstance in which you have taken a risk and/or been visionary as a leader. Please be specific in describing the results. Use an example that is different than those used previously in the application. (Maximum of 5 points, 1,000-character max)

4.6 Contribution to the Leadership Class

What unique achievements, qualities, or characteristics not described in the above would you bring to the class? Please describe strengths, experiences, and perspectives that would make you a “unique contributor” as the class grows as leaders in the coming year. (Maximum of 5 points, 1,000-character max)