



**Emerging Leaders
Applying for the Class of 2027
“Convince Your Employer” Email Template**

Dear Emerging Leaders Applicants:

Here is a sample email you can send to your supervisor to help explain the benefits and opportunities of your participation in the Emerging Leaders Program. Please feel free to adapt the email to your specific needs.

Subject: Request for Professional Development: Emerging Leaders Program (Class of 2027)

Dear [NAME],

As part of my continued professional development, I would like your support to participate in Leadership Council San Mateo County’s **Emerging Leaders Program** (Class of 2027).

Leadership Council SMC strengthens leaders and fosters public-private relationships to spark innovation for a thriving region. Their Emerging Leaders Program is a ten-month, immersive experience for rising leaders from the business, nonprofit, and government sectors who live or work in San Mateo County. It combines leadership skill development, civic knowledge, and relationship building to expand participants’ organizational and community impact.

There are several ways this investment would directly benefit our organization:

- ★ **Stronger Leadership Skills:** The program includes over 80 hours of professional development focused on building high-performing teams, achieving results across diverse perspectives, and leading effectively through change. I will gain deeper insight into my strengths and leadership style, along with practical tools to be more effective in my role.

★ **Valuable Connections:** Alongside a cohort of approximately 40 emerging leaders, I will learn from corporate executives, elected officials, and nonprofit leaders across San Mateo County, gaining access to global best practices and the ways that leaders from different industries, sectors, and roles achieve success. I will become part of Leadership Council SMC's extensive leadership network. These relationships provide access to new ideas, strategic alliances, and resources that can benefit our organization.

★ **Deeper Civic Understanding**

Through direct engagement with influential leaders from some of the region's most high-profile corporations, small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government entities, participants gain insight into the complex issues shaping San Mateo County and the systems that influence business and community success. This broader perspective supports more informed decision-making and long-term thinking.

★ **Applied Learning Through a Community Acceleration Project**

Each participant completes a Community Acceleration Project to advance the work of a local San Mateo County nonprofit or public sector organization. Working on a cross-sector team in a high-impact environment will strengthen my collaboration and execution skills while also providing visibility for our organization as a community-minded partner.

The program runs from September 2026 through June 2027, with tuition of \$4,100 plus a \$100 application fee; scholarships and payment plans are available. The application process is highly selective, and if selected, I would attend the two-day Opening Session in September and meet with my cohort monthly (generally on Fridays) through June. Leadership Council SMC has published the [Program Calendar for 2026-2027](#) on their [website](#) to support advance planning.

I believe this program will allow me to contribute at a higher level and bring back practical tools, expanded relationships, and strategic insights that support our team's success. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss your support.

Thank you for considering this request for my continued development.

Best,
[Your Name]