



Leadership Council San Mateo County

We strengthen leaders and foster public-private relationships to spark innovation for a thriving region. Through immersive professional development programs, educational events, and our extensive leadership network, we provide opportunities for leaders at every experience level.

Emerging Leaders Program

The Emerging Leaders Program is a ten-month, immersive and career-changing experience designed for rising leaders from the business, nonprofit, and government sectors. Open to emerging leaders who live or work in San Mateo County, its emphasis on leadership skills training, civic engagement, and relationship building empowers participants to expand their organizational and community impact.

Participants learn from, and have access to, influential leaders from some of the region's most high-profile corporations, small businesses, nonprofits, and government entities.

As they learn and collaborate with a diverse group of peers, participants find inspiration and connections that empower and inspire them.

Our Curriculum Offers

★ Leadership Skills Development

focusing on techniques that strong leaders use to inspire and create change. Participants learn from expert leadership coaches and practice their skills using real-world situations.

★ Public-Private Relationships

that begin with an inclusive and welcoming cohort and expand to influential leaders from across San Mateo County. Participants build powerful connections to help them affect change.

★ Civic Understanding

of the complex issues facing SMC and the resources available to solve problems. Working in small groups, participants complete Community Acceleration Projects that serve County organizations, applying their developing leadership skills and civic knowledge.

The Emerging Leaders Program is right for you if you:

- Seek to expand your leadership responsibilities and want to strengthen your skills, confidence, and professional presence;
- Demonstrate initiative by being proactive, and are ready to prepare for greater decision-making roles;
- Value building trusted relationships with peers from all sectors who bring different perspectives;
- Want a deeper civic understanding of the systems and issues shaping San Mateo County.

[Learn more](#)



EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Who Should Apply?



Emerging Leaders Program Graduates Bring Benefits to Their Organizations By

- Accelerating results through enhanced communication and collaboration skills and tools;
- Expanding trusted public-private networks that introduce innovative ideas, resources, and strategic alliances with peers and influential leaders from across industries and San Mateo County;
- Bringing informed civic awareness that strengthens community engagement and long-term thinking;
- Returning with a heightened sense of purpose, which increases both job and life satisfaction.

Program Dates & Commitment (2026 - 2027)

Two-Day Opening Session (Mandatory)

Thursday and Friday,
September 10 and 11 *

Friday, October 9

Friday, November 6

Friday, December 4 *

Friday, January 22

Friday, February 19

Friday, March 12

Friday, April 9

Friday, May 7 *

Thursday, May 27 *

Closing Session and Graduation

June 4 *

* Joint session with Leadership CORPS

The program begins with a mandatory, two-day Opening Session in September and Learning Days through June.

- Learning Days are 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. except December which is 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 pm.
- Learning Days are held at various San Mateo County locations
- Participants may miss only two Learning Days to graduate.
- Previous Learning Day topics include: Healthy Communities, Economic Development, Human Services, Intelligent Urbanism, Education, Climate Resilience, Safe Communities, and Civics & Being a Community Citizen.

Tuition for the Class of 2027 is \$4,100 plus a nonrefundable \$100 application fee, and can be paid by the individual or employer.

Scholarships are available and payment plans can be arranged.

Committed to Representative Leadership

We are committed to supporting efforts across San Mateo County to ensure that all who live or work here see leadership as representative, accessible, and achievable.

Questions?

Email: applications@leadershipcouncilsmc.org

Nominate Someone