



# Hi There!

We're looking for awesome people to join Leadership Metrocrest.

Leadership Metrocrest is an annual program of the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce which identifies, cultivates, and motivates future community leaders. The information and thought-provoking program introduces participants to opportunities and challenges in the community while exposing them to the Chamber's strategic initiatives. Leadership Metrocrest is a nine-month program that has operated in the community for more than 30 years. One class of no more than twenty members is conducted annually and are selected through a competitive process.

Those selected are required to fully participate in the nine program classes, including orientation, retreat, regular sessions, networking after the bell, and graduation day. Regular sessions involve a combination of panel discussions, tours, hands-on experiences, one-on-one interaction with current community leaders, and leadership building group activities designed to expose participants to all aspects of topics covered in each session.

**Do I need to be nominated by a third party to be considered for the program?** A referral from a Leadership Metrocrest graduate is one of our best sources of new candidates, but candidates do not have to be nominated. Applicants can also self-nominate. Additionally, nominations from past graduates, your employer, or a municipal partner does not automatically guarantee admission into program. Each individual must apply and complete the entire application process. Applications are available on the website at [metrocrestchamber.com](http://metrocrestchamber.com)

**Is there an age limit to participate in Leadership Metrocrest?** Leadership Metrocrest serves adults of any age who wish to better understand their community and get more involved in community service. Diversity of age and experience is considered a strength in selecting a Leadership Metrocrest class.

**How much does it cost to participate?** The participation fee for Leadership Metrocrest is \$1,200. This covers all the costs of conducting the program for each of the Leadership Metrocrest class days and any fees for participation in class day activities. The fee may be paid by the applicant, their employer or municipality, or by a combination of both. No-interest payment plans are available. A limited number of scholarships are available for participants demonstrating financial need. Scholarship requests are not a factor in the selection process and the selection committee is not aware of who has requested a scholarship when they make their selections.

**What are the criteria for being selected?** Participants are selected after submitting an application form and two letters of recommendation. The selection committee seeks to establish a class that represents a strong diversity of professional, demographic, and personal

attributes and a balance of companies and organizations represented. The selection committee also seeks candidates that have demonstrated a high level of commitment to community service and a strong motivation to participate in the Leadership Metrocrest program. Generally, no more than four representatives from any one organization, employer, or municipal partner can be selected to participate in a class; however, the selection committee may, in its sole discretion, make exceptions.

Leadership Metrocrest considers the following criteria during the selection process:

- Demonstrated capacity for leadership.
- Community interest and involvement
- Desire to assume or expand leadership responsibility within the Metrocrest region.
- Willingness to give back to the community.
- Class representation of diverse backgrounds and experiences (including socio-economic, industry/sector, education, tenure in community)
- Commitment to program attendance and active participation
- Access to leadership development opportunities through current employer or other community leadership programs

**What happens if you are not selected?** Because Leadership Metrocrest receives more applications each year than it can accommodate in the class, the class is selected through a competitive application process and sometimes excellent candidates are turned away. Rejection one year should not be an indication that you are in any way unqualified for the class. You are strongly urged to reapply in a later year and are welcome and encouraged to consult with the Chamber on ways to improve your application.

**What is the time commitment and expectations of participants?** Participants are expected to attend the orientation, retreat, and every scheduled session fully. There are also required readings between sessions. In addition, there is a service-learning component to Leadership Metrocrest.