



*Leadership*  
**HELENA**  
PROGRAM OF THE HELENA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# LEADERSHIP HELENA PROGRAM APPLICATION 2026-2027



## SHAPING HELENA'S FUTURE

### Welcome to Leadership Helena

Leadership Helena is a dynamic program designed and organized by the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce to cultivate informed, engaged, and visionary leaders within the Helena community. Through a blend of professional development, meaningful networking, and active involvement with the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce and the broader community, participants gain the skills and insights needed to lead with purpose and impact.

### Why Join Leadership Helena?

Leadership Helena empowers participants to grow both personally and professionally. The program combines leadership training with hands-on community engagement, equipping individuals to challenge the status quo, inspire innovative thinking, and take meaningful action. Graduates emerge ready to make a lasting difference in Helena—strengthening organizations, building connections, and shaping the future of our community.



Applications Due

*Deadline: End of the Business Day, June 18*

*Notifications by July 10th*

**Goals of the Leadership Helena Program**

**1. Enhanced Leadership Skills**

Participants will develop critical leadership competencies—such as strategic thinking, effective communication, and decision-making—that can be directly applied to their roles within the organization.

**2. Broader Community Awareness**

Employees will gain a deeper understanding of the Helena area's economic, civic, and cultural landscape, enabling them to represent their organization more effectively in community and business settings.

**3. Stronger Professional Network**

Through structured networking opportunities, participants will build lasting relationships with other local professionals, fostering potential partnerships and collaborations that benefit their employer.

**4. Increased Initiative and Innovation**

By challenging conventional thinking and encouraging new perspectives, the program inspires participants to bring fresh ideas and proactive solutions back to their workplace.

**5. Greater Organizational Engagement**

Employees return with a renewed sense of purpose and community connection, often becoming more engaged, motivated, and aligned with their organization's mission and values.

**Selection & Tuition**

- Candidates will be selected with a goal of establishing a diverse mix of professions, activities, and backgrounds
- Tuition:
  - \$1,950 for Chamber Members
  - \$2,200 for Non-Chamber Members
  - Tuition fee is payable upon acceptance in the program. This fee covers the costs of the beginning retreat, individual session meals, materials and group transportation. (Tuition is nonrefundable and must be paid in full by August 27, 2026.)
  - Please Note: If a community health event occurs and we are unable to complete the year in person, the year will be completed virtually— there will be no refunds.

**Program Requirements**

- Leadership Helena participants will initiate their experience with a two-day, mandatory retreat in September.
- Two-year commitment: Graduates of the class will work together the following year to organize the session days for the next Leadership Helena class. The second year will also include fundraising and professional speaking.
- Participants may not be absent for more than 2.5 days total. The beginning retreat is mandatory. Failure to meet mandatory retreat attendance and/or exceeding the 2.5 missed days will result in a failure to graduate. Class members who fail to meet the attendance requirements will not be invited to attend graduation and will not be allowed to participate in the planning of the session days with their fellow class members in year two.
- Payment Plans are available. Please speak to Callie Aschim at the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce for more information.

## LEADERSHIP HELENA 2026-2027 SCHEDULE

**New Class Meet & Greet**

Thursday, September 15 from 4-6pm

**Beginning Retreat at Blacktail Ranch**

Thursday & Friday, September 24  
& 25 (return by 3pm Friday)

**Monthly Sessions from 8am -5pm**

**Sustainable Helena Day**

Thursday, October 15

**Historic Helena Day**

Thursday, November 19

**Philanthropy Day**

Thursday, December 17

**Personal Wellness Day**

Thursday, January 21

**City Policy & Advocacy Day**

Thursday, February 18

**Education & Workforce Day**

Thursday, March 18

**Human Needs Day**

Thursday, April 15

**Graduation Day**

Thursday, May 20

**2nd Year Orientation**

Wednesday, August 11 from 9-10:30am

# 2026-2027 LEADERSHIP HELENA APPLICATION

NAME:

TITLE:

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION:

INDUSTRY SECTOR:

GENDER:  Male  Female AGE GROUP:  20-29  30-39  40-49  50+

DATE OF BIRTH:

CELL PHONE:

BUSINESS PHONE:

DAY MONTH YEAR

BUSINESS MAILING ADDRESS:

HOME MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

NAME OF SUPERVISOR:

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS/PREFERENCES:

TUITION RATE:  \$1,950 Chamber Member  \$2,200 Non-Chamber Member

TUITION PAID BY:  Employer  Self  Employer & Self  Other

WHO RECOMMENDED THIS PROGRAM TO YOU:

*Attendance Requirements: Acceptance into the Leadership Helena program includes a two-year commitment. The first year consists of a mandatory retreat and eight sessions, spanning from October through May. Attendance at retreat is mandatory. Participants are only allowed to miss 2½ days of the monthly sessions. Anyone missing more than 2½ days of sessions (a ½ day absence is allowed only one time) will not be recognized as a Leadership Helena graduate. The second-year commitment after graduation provides first hand leadership training as planners for the LH session days. The second-year responsibility does not require attendance at each session day, only the two sessions you select to organize. The leadership skills that you will be using your second year will include fundraising for donations to cover your session day costs, professional speaking skills for the introduction of speakers and topics and organizational skills in setting agendas of the day's events. Please review the dates of the retreat and sessions and consult with your employer about attendance requirements. Your signature below verifies that, if accepted into the program, you and your employer agree to abide by the attendance requirements.*

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISOR

DATE

STAFF USE: PAID \_\_\_\_\_

DATE REC'D \_\_\_\_\_



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REQUIRED: Please complete the required questions below and include these with your application:

1. Explain how you think Leadership Helena can help you fulfill your own aspirations to be a leader in the Helena community.
2. How will participation in Leadership Helena benefit your organization?
3. Please attach a resume that includes your educational background and work history.



**HELENA**  
AREA CHAMBER OF  
*Commerce*

*Please return your application to:  
Helena Area Chamber of Commerce  
225 N Cruse Ave Ste. A  
Helena, MT 59601  
Or to [caschim@helenachamber.com](mailto:caschim@helenachamber.com)*

All applications, scholarships, payment information and program information contact  
Callie Aschim 406-442-4120.

***Leadership Helena is a program of the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce***