

**Do I need to be a resident of Grand Rapids?**

Preferred candidates reside in the Greater Grand Rapids area. However, the program has accepted candidates who reside in Muskegon, Holland, and Grand Haven, who focus their professional and/or community involvement in the Greater Grand Rapids area.

**Do I have to work in Grand Rapids?**

Not necessarily. Preferred candidates should work in the Greater Grand Rapids area, however, the program often accepts candidates who work outside of Grand Rapids but focus their personal/community involvement on the Greater Grand Rapids area.

**What qualifications does LGR look for in a candidate?**

LGR seeks established leaders who have the capacity to make a positive impact in the community. Candidates should have demonstrated past community involvement or a strong commitment to become involved. Candidates should be well positioned to both contribute value to the composition of the class as well as be poised to contribute to the community based on their participation in the program.

**Does LGR offer anything outside of the class?**

Yes, the program offers many opportunities to enhance the content presented during each day session. For example, class members have the opportunity to visit area health clinics before the day session focusing on community health, as well as join a member of the Grand Rapids Police Department for a ride-a-long before the public safety day session.

**Is there a commitment after I graduate from the program?**

Yes. LGR is successful because of the alumni who volunteer each year to support the program for the next classes. Graduates of the program are expected to volunteer for two years following their participation and lend their experiences by serving on work groups, which make the program possible.

**I have physical limitations. How strenuous is the opening retreat and the rest of the LGR program?**

Applicants are encouraged to apply regardless of physical limitations. Class members are invited to participate in activities in both the opening and closing retreats that can be physically strenuous. However, whether and at what level you choose to participate in these activities is a personal choice. Over the years, individuals of all abilities have participated in retreat activities. We will gladly address any concern you have regarding the retreat, and we will do what we can to help you participate at whatever physical level you choose.

**How are candidates chosen? What is the timeline?**

Candidates are chosen from a competitive application and selection process. Each application is reviewed and suitable applicants are interviewed by a team of LGR alumni, who rate applicants based on the content of their written application and responses during a brief interview. Candidates are then selected by a committee based on these scores, the community sector they represent (i.e. financial services, non-profit, healthcare, etc.), past and current community involvement, general interest in the community, commitment to serving as a community trustee, and general understanding of the program and its goals.

## **Timeline**

Application Deadline:

March 15, 2019 with no fee  
April 12, 2019 with \$50 fee

Candidate Interviews: May 2019

Candidate Notification: By June 28, 2019

*Continued*

**Do you prefer candidates from particular companies or organizations?**

No. LGR seeks a diverse representation of organizations from across the community and does not limit participation to an established list. These include professionals from financial services, education, manufacturing, healthcare, the arts, community organizations, government, and other sectors.

**Do you accept more than one candidate from a particular company?**

Last year more than 100 applications were received for just 40 spots in the program. For that reason, the program rarely accepts more than one candidate from an organization.

Many organizations regularly participate in LGR and have developed an internal identification and selection process, so their best and most preferred candidate applies for the program. These organizations often rely upon their LGR graduates to complete this selection process. We encourage you to check with your employer to determine if a similar process exists within your organization.

**Do you give special consideration to individuals who have previously applied to the program?**

Yes, special consideration is given to individuals who have applied previously, because it indicates their commitment to that program. A portion of the application allows you to indicate if you have applied in the past and if you should receive any special consideration.

Re-applying is encouraged because the program often attracts so many qualified applicants. Many candidates apply two or three times before getting accepted.

**How much does the program cost?**

Tuition is being finalized for LGR 2020 and will be set when applications are released in early 2019. For context, tuition for LGR 2019 was \$3,100. This amount is most often covered by your organization. However, partial scholarships are available.

**What financial assistance is available?**

On average, 12 participants a year receive a scholarship. These range from \$250 to \$2,000, generally are less than \$1,500 per recipient and are awarded to individuals from non-profits, businesses, and government. In exceptional cases, LGR will award a maximum scholarship of \$2,000.

**How do I apply?**

Once available in early 2019, complete the online application at [grandrapids.org/leadership-grand-rapids](http://grandrapids.org/leadership-grand-rapids). Download the Commitment PDF and have your supervisor sign in addition to yourself, then submit via email to [smithm@grandrapids.org](mailto:smithm@grandrapids.org). If you would like to request scholarship support, download and complete the form and also submit via email to [smithm@grandrapids.org](mailto:smithm@grandrapids.org) no later than April 12, 2019.