



2024 Leadership Series Application

CLICK to listen watch the video companion: <https://youtu.be/L4LfxAHlzXY>

About the Application



This is an online application to join the Advocates in Action Leadership Series Class of 2024.

We created this form with software from a company called QuestionPro, which is why it says, “Powered by QuestionPro” at the bottom of the page.

Depending on your email settings, you may also notice that some of the messages you receive about your application will say they came from “The AinA Leadership Series via questionpro.com”.

Rest assured that neither of these things is a computer glitch. The application you’re about to complete, and the messages you may receive about it, are from our team here at Advocates in Action.

Hopefully, we’ve cleared up any confusion. Now let’s move on to the application form for next year’s class!

This form is for people who have never taken the Leadership Series. If you already graduated from the class, and you want to continue your education with our team here at Advocates in Action, we invite you to apply for our Leadership Graduate Academy.

There's no cost to participate in either learning experience, thanks to support from the Rhode Island Division of Developmental Disabilities, but space is limited. Click the buttons below to find out more both each of them:



REMEMBER!
THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS
Friday, January 19th, 2024

Please Note: The deadline to apply for the Class of 2024 is Friday, January 19th



The Class of 2024 will begin with a **Virtual Kick-Off retreat on Wednesday, February 7th**. The retreat starts at 10:30 am and runs until 2:30 pm, with an hour-long break for lunch from noon to 1:00 pm. Everyone who joins our next Leadership Series must attend the full retreat.

How to Complete this Form

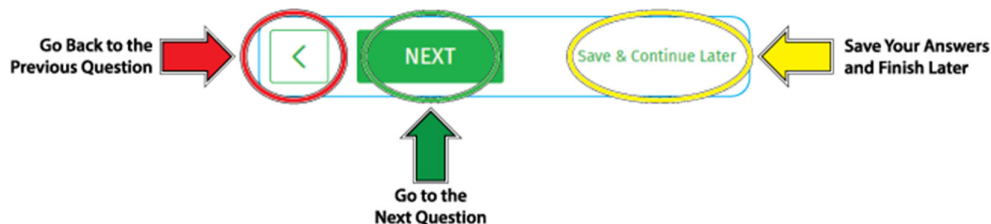
=====

The form has 20 questions, each of which should be answered by YOU, the person applying. Questions that are required will have an asterisk (*) and be highlighted in red. You need to answer all of the required questions, or you won't be able to submit your application.

If you're unsure how to answer a question, that's ok! Give it your best shot, and let us know if you need help in your response.

For example, if you don't understand a question, write, "I don't understand," and continue to the next question. This will allow you to complete your application and remind us to talk about that question during your interview.

We placed each of the questions in this application on a separate page. Here's how to navigate through the form:



- **CLICK the BACK ARROW (<)** to return to the previous question.
- **CLICK the word NEXT** to go forward.
- **CLICK "Save & Continue Later"** to take a break and return later to finish.

If you decide to **Save & Continue Later**, a pop-up window like the one below will appear and remind you to finish answering the current question first.

As you may notice, the program we use to process our applications calls the form you're working on a "survey". Don't let that name confuse you. They're the same thing!

Warning: Please make sure you have answered all questions on this page. If you haven't answered all questions, please click on cancel to return to the survey and complete your response. If you have answered all questions, please click on the continue button.

Cancel Continue

Response ID: 123456789
Please enter your email address so that we can send you a link to the location that you have saved.

Email Address

Confirm Email Address

Email me the link

If you want to make any changes to your answer, click **Cancel**. If everything looks OK, and you're ready to save your application, click **Continue** and enter your email in the window that appears.

We'll send you a personalized link at this address so you can finish your application when you're ready. Please check your email and keep this message in a safe place.

If you're using someone else's address, check with them. If you lose your personalized link, you'll need to restart the application from the beginning.

Note: If you're working on a saved application, you must complete it before the deadline on **Friday, January 19th!**

We're Here to Help!



You're welcome to complete the form on your own or ask someone you trust to assist you. You can also contact Advocates in Action using the information below. We'll be happy to walk you through the application process and answer any questions you may have.

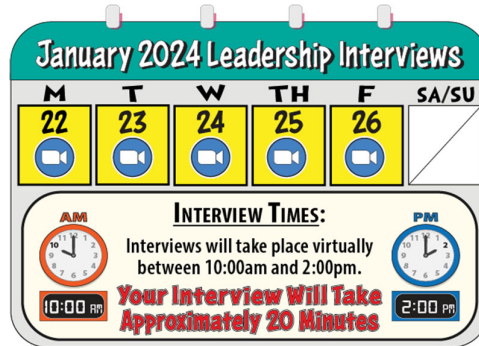
Once you've answered all of the questions, click the green button that appears at the end of the form to submit your application.





Schedule your interview and join us on Zoom!

Our team here at Advocates in Action will review your application and send you a copy of your completed form, along with instructions for scheduling your interview. Everyone who applies for next year's class, including support staff, must attend an interview.



Interviews last approximately 20 minutes and will take place virtually using the Zoom Video App. The schedule is listed below:

Interview Days:

**Monday, January 22nd | Tuesday, January 23rd | Wednesday, January 24th
Thursday, January 25th | Friday, January 26th**

Interview Times:

Appointments will be available between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Relax and Take Your Time

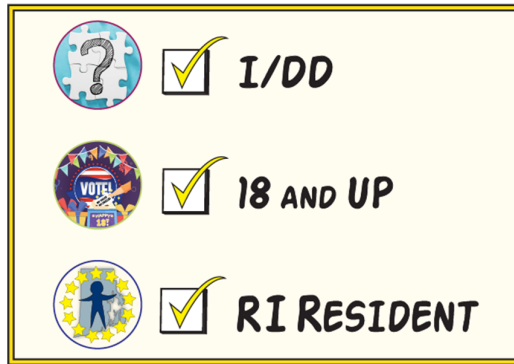


This is **NOT A TEST**

If you prefer a specific time on one of these days, we recommend scheduling your interview as soon as possible to reserve the slot before another applicant claims it. If you plan to take the class with a support person, we recommend coordinating with them before scheduling so you can interview together.

Remember, this isn't a test! These questions are about you. The only way to get something wrong is by skipping it. Relax, answer things to the best of your ability, and take your time.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!



[CLICK HERE](https://youtu.be/uw-TUuOCp8w) to listen watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/uw-TUuOCp8w>

We created the Leadership Series to empower individuals who have an Intellectual/Developmental Disability, or "I/DD", with some of the skills people need to make informed decisions, take charge of their lives, speak up for themselves, and support others to do the same.

There's no cost to participate, but you must meet the following requirements to join the Leadership Series. If your answer indicates that you don't meet these requirements, you'll be redirected to a page where you can learn about some of the other activities we offer.

If you think you made a mistake, you're also welcome to restart the application from the beginning and correct your answers.

CLICK to listen watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/re4nhBxbtT8>



Requirement 1: Do you have an Intellectual/Developmental Disability?

This question is required.

To be eligible for the Leadership Series, you must have an Intellectual/ Developmental Disability. This is important because it means you have “lived experience” to share!

If you need to bring a support person to help you participate in class, that individual is also eligible, but must complete a separate application and attend an interview before we can accept them.

Select the answer that best describes how you meet this requirement from the 3 options listed below:

Option 1: YES. I have an Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD).

Option 2: NO. I don't have an I/DD, but I'll be providing support to a fellow class member who does.

Write the name of the person who you will be supporting and describe how they're related to you. For example, are they a family member, friend, or paid support person. If you're not sure who this person will be yet, write that instead.

Option 3: NO. Neither of the options above apply.

CLICK to listen watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/Z1c7M4oy1Uk>



Requirement 2: Are you a Rhode Island resident?

This question is required.

The Leadership Series is open to Rhode Island residents, and those who live out of state, but will be providing support to a fellow class member who resides here.

Select the answer that describes your residency status from the following 3 options:

If you select option 2, a dialogue box will open so you can enter the state where you're a resident.

- Option 1:** YES. I am a RI resident
- Option 2:** No, I am not a RI resident, but I will be supporting a fellow class member who is.
If you aren't a Rhode Island resident, where are you a resident?
- Option 3:** NO. I am not a RI resident.

CLICK watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/mnHTfUw2fqQ>



Requirement 3: Are you age 18 or older? If not, will you be turning 18 in 2024?

This question is required.

You must be at least 18 years old, which is the legal Voting age in Rhode Island, or celebrate your 18th birthday in 2024, to be eligible for the Leadership Series.

Select your answer from one of the 3 options listed below.

- Option 1:** YES. I am of voting age (18 or older).
- Option 2:** Not yet. I'm 17 years old, but I'll turn 18 before the end of 2024.
If you'll be turning 18 in 2024, when is your birthday?
- Option 3:** NO. I won't be old enough to vote by the end of 2024.

*** NOTE: If you answered “no” to any of the last 3 questions because you don’t meet that requirement, you’ll be re-directed to this page.**

CLICK watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/tbPVPmIvGEA>

Thanks for your interest in our next Leadership Series! Unfortunately, according to your previous response, it doesn’t look like you meet our eligibility requirements.

If you think you made a mistake and would like to change your answer, **CLICK** <https://www.tinyurl.com/LS24App> and the application form will open in a new tab so you can start again.

If your last answer was correct, and you don’t meet these requirements, click the NEXT button at the bottom of this page to learn more about some of the other activities and opportunities our organization offers.

Thanks again for your interest. Stay safe and have a great day!

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/2yzlf3oEkKA>



Section 1: Applicant Contact Information

This section is about you, the person who's applying to join the Leadership Series. The answers you provide should tell us how to contact you directly. By direct, we mean that the following information should be for the applicant themselves, rather than a 3rd party, as much as possible. For example, if you receive services from a provider agency, please enter your address, rather than your agency's office address.

We'll use the information you enter to stay in touch about class and related activities.

We realize that some people may need help with things like talking on the phone or reading their mail, and that's totally fine. If you want us to also send this information to someone who supports you, such as a family member or the provider agency you receive services from, you'll be able to enter their contact information in Section 2.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: [https://youtu.be/ Ns5WJCx34I](https://youtu.be/Ns5WJCx34I)



QUESTION 1: What is your full name?

This question is required.

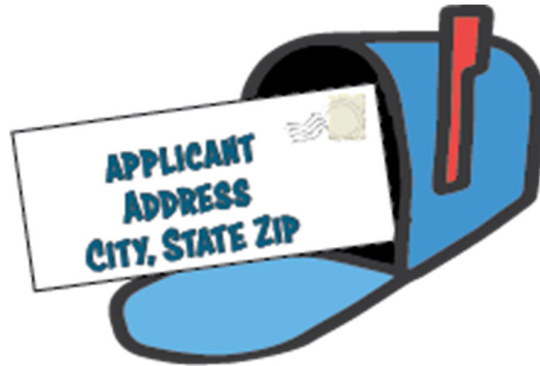
After you've completed the Leadership Series, we'll celebrate your success with an official graduation ceremony. We need the correct spelling of your full name, written the way you'd like it to appear on your diploma.

Write your FIRST and LAST name in the space below:

Line 1. First Name:

Line 2. Last Name:

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/NGeq6b-N-Ps>



QUESTION 2: What is your mailing address?

This question is required.

We need your mailing address to send you materials related to class during our time together. While most of the materials we use will be available online to download, we'll also be sending you various printed resources and other items that you'll need for class.

This is usually an applicant's home address. If you're using a different address, make sure that you'll be able to check the mail there often and are able to receive packages at this location.

Enter your FULL MAILING ADDRESS in the space below:

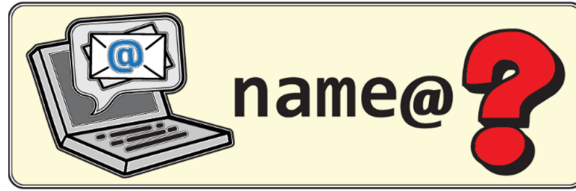
Line 1. Address:

Line 2. City:

Line 3. State:

Line 4. Zip Code:

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/dsFhwQD8Hpw>



QUESTION 3: What email address will you be using for class?

This question is required.

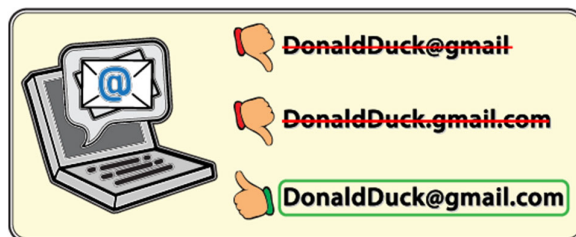
Applicants need to have a way to send and receive email. We'll be using email throughout our time together to share homework assignments, information about group projects and contests (with real prizes when you win!), extra resources about the topics we cover in class, and invitations to other meetings or events you might be interested in.

We also encourage class members to stay connected with our Leadership Series team by emailing us any questions, comments, or ideas you want to share.

Using email is an important requirement for being in the Leadership Series, but it doesn't mean you need to do it alone. If you don't have an address or use email, you can ask a family member, friend, or one of your paid support staff to use theirs. If you decide to use someone else's email address, you'll be able to enter their name and how they're related to you in the next question.

Remember, if this isn't your address, you'll need to connect with the person who owns it at least once a week to check for messages from our Leadership Series team and send a reply.

Write the email address that you'll be using for class in the space below. Make sure you enter it in the correct format.



For example, if your email is "DonaldDonald@gmail.com", remember to include the three-letter extension (.com) at the end.

This is important because if we don't have your correct address, we won't be able to contact you!

Once you've entered your email, you'll be asked to re-enter your address in the next question to confirm it's correct.

CLICK to listen watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/f4F-OgBMItA>

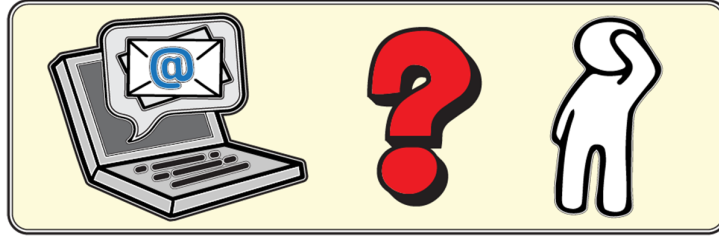


QUESTION 3, Continued: Confirm your email address.

This question is required.

Please re-enter the email address you'll be using for class in the space below to make sure it's correct.

CLICK to listen watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/rvCf9aLybbA>



QUESTION 4: Who does the email address you'll be using for class belong to?

This question is required.

You must be able to send and receive email on a regular basis to be in the Leadership Series, but you don't need to own the address you'll be using.

Select the answer that describes who this email address belongs to from the two options listed below. Note, if you

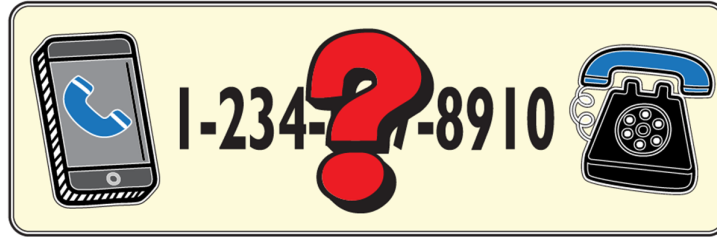
select the second option, a dialogue box will open so you can enter that person's name and how they're related to you.

If this address belongs to someone else, write that person's name and describe how they're related to you:

- Option 1:** This is my email address.
- Option 2:** This email belongs to someone else.

If this address belongs to someone else, write the person's name and describe how they're related to you in the dialogue box that opens

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/iIGV8Uw2PFA>



QUESTION 5: What is the best phone number to reach you?

This question is required.

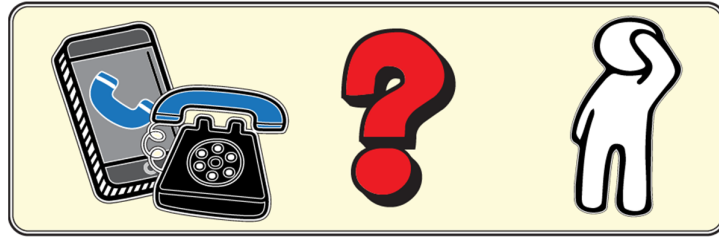
Although we'll be using email as the primary way to connect with class members, we also need a way to reach you by phone. We'll use this number to contact you if we have questions or information to share that's better suited for a phone conversation than an email message.

We prefer calling class members directly, but if talking on the phone isn't your thing, you're welcome to use a number that belongs to another person.

If the number you're using belongs to someone else, remember that you'll need to check with them for messages from our Leadership Team between classes.

Write the best phone number to reach you, beginning with the area code, in the space below. When entering your number, remember to include a dash between the area code, the first three numbers, and the last four numbers, or it won't be correct.:

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/Qty-hGoYTUA>



QUESTION 6: Who does the phone number you're using belong to?

This question is required.

We need a phone number where we can reach you to share updates and other information, but you're welcome to use someone else's number if necessary.

Select the answer that describes who the phone number you're using for class belongs to from the two options listed below. Note, if you select the second option, a dialogue box will open so you can enter that person's name and how they're related to you.

- Option 1:** This is my phone number.
- Option 2:** This phone number belongs to someone else.

If this number belongs to someone else, write the person's name and describe how they're related to you in the dialogue box that opens. For example, are they a family member, friend, or paid support person?

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/ba-RnfywnT0>



Section 2: Adding a Contact Person

We'll send any printed materials you may need for class and other correspondence directly to you, the applicant. You're welcome to make copies and share whatever message we send with others who will be supporting you in the Leadership Series.

In addition, we can also send a copy of those messages to your designated contact person. When we do this, it means we'll send messages directly to you and will also include your contact person in our "Cc list" so they get a copy of the same information.

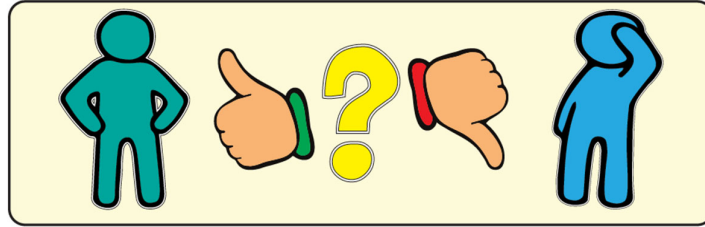
***Adding a Contact Person to our Cc list isn't the same as bringing a Support Person with you to class.**

If you add a contact person, we'll email them the same information whenever we send you a message about class. If you need to bring a support person with you to class, you'll be able to add that information in **Section 4: Accommodations and Accessibility**.

You're welcome to bring a support person if you think you'll need their assistance during class. Our Leadership team will also be available to help, and the fact that classes will be virtual means you may not need the same assistance as you would if we met in person, such as transportation or help with personal care.

If you do decide to bring a support person, that individual needs to complete a separate application to join the Leadership Series. If we're able to accept you into next year's class, we'll accept your support person, too, which means you don't need to add them as your contact person because they'll already be on our mailing list!

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/Jz7WzRvgF3c>



QUESTION 7: Would you like to add a Contact Person?

This question is required.

We can share a copy of class-related information, such as homework projects or changes to the schedule, with your contact person. Whether or not we do so is up to you, and either decision is fine.

If you want us to CC your Contact Person, they will receive a copy of all the information we share about the class, but any personal information members choose to share when we meet needs to be kept confidential.

Let us know if you'd like to add a Contact Person by selecting one of the following two options:

- Option 1:** No. I don't want to add a Contact Person.
- Option 2:** Yes. I'd like to add a Contact Person.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/GaHnwalnVDk>



QUESTION 7, Continued: Who is your contact person?

This question is only required for those who selected to add a contact person in the previous question.

If you'd like us to add a contact person to our class email list, enter their name and additional details in the section below:

Line 1. Contact's First Name:

Line 2. Contact's Last Name:

Line 3. Contact's Email Address:

Line 4. Contact's phone number:

Line 5. Describe how this person is related to you, the applicant. *For example, are they a family member, friend, or paid support person?*

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/mk6MTT-jns8>

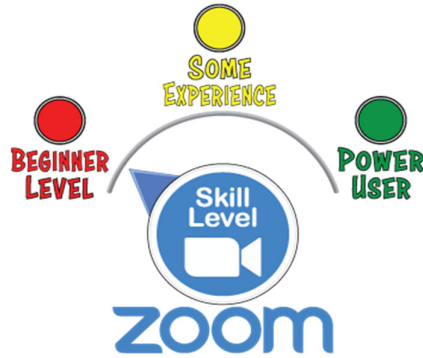


Section 3: Connecting for Class

Our next Leadership Series will meet virtually once a week using the Zoom video app. In addition, you'll have a variety of online activities, homework projects, and other ways to get involved during our time together. This Section is about the type of equipment you'll be using to do those things.

If you're not familiar with Zoom or how to navigate the internet, NO WORRIES! Those are some of the topics we'll talk about in class. Our Peer Mentors will also be available to meet 1:1 and help you get started.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/odXXSYM5bns>



QUESTION 8: How much experience do you have using Zoom?

This question is required.

You don't need to have any experience using Zoom to join the Leadership Series! We can show you how, but first, we need to know how comfortable you are using the app. Your answer will help us make recommendations about the courses, resources, and extra-curricular activities you may be interested in to help you learn more about using the app.

Select an answer from the 3 options listed below that best describes your experience level using the Zoom video app.

Once you make a selection, a box will open for any additional information you'd like to share. If you don't have anything else to add, make an "X" or type "none".

- Option 1:** Beginner Level - Not much experience
Add any comments you wish to share or write "none":
- Option 2:** Some Experience
Add any comments you wish to share or write "none":
- Option 3:** Power User - A lot of experience
Add any comments you wish to share or write "none":

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/C0ywdkxmadI>



QUESTION 9: What type of equipment will you use to participate in the Leadership Series?






This question is required.

Class members must have the right equipment and a way to connect to the internet to participate in the Leadership Series.

If at all possible, we strongly recommend using a computer with the Zoom Desktop App for the best overall experience possible. We don't recommend using a Smartphone to connect, but you're welcome to do so if that's your only option.

Select the type of device(s) you'll be using from the 4 options listed below.

If your device isn't listed, or you'd like to add any comments or questions about how you'll connect for class, select **Option 5: Other** and add that information in the box that opens.

<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Option 1: Computer		Option 2: Tablet		Option 3: Chromebook
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			
	Option 4: Smartphone		Option 5: Other/Comments		

CLICK to watch the video companion: <https://youtu.be/rHMmA4HsrEQ>



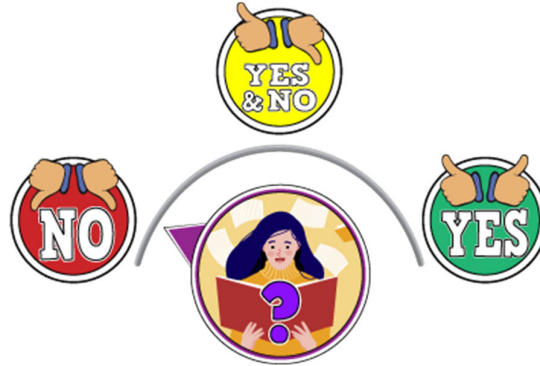
Section 4: Accommodations and Accessibility

This section is about any type of accommodations you may need to participate in the class. Although we ask whether or not you feel comfortable reading and writing, remember that you DON'T need the ability to do either of those things to join the Leadership Series!

We make all of our materials available in a variety of formats, such as pictures, videos, music, and games, to make the information accessible, inclusive, and easy to understand for people with a variety of learning styles. We provide free text to speech technology that will read aloud and translate the materials we share in class, homework assignments, and other resources. Finally, we teach the class with a team of Peer Mentors who'll be there to help.

There are no wrong answers to the following 2 questions! Your response, combined with those we receive from other applicants, will help us customize our materials and improve the overall class experience for everyone.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/NNlrr8mFYUo>



QUESTION 10: Are you comfortable READING?

This question is required.

This question is about whether or not you feel comfortable reading. We realize that people communicate in many different ways, from books to body language and beyond! In this instance, "reading" refers to the printed word, either on paper or screen.

Remember, you DON'T need to read to be part of the Leadership Series. We ask this question because we value your feedback, and your response will help us improve the experience for everyone who joins our next class.

If you're not comfortable reading, it's nothing to be embarrassed about!

Select the response that best describes how comfortable you feel about reading from the following options. Once you've made your selection, a dialogue box will open so you can add comments if you'd like to clarify your choice. For example, you might be comfortable reading alone but not enjoy reading in front of others.

If you don't have any comments make an "X" or type "none".

If you have a different answer to share, select the 4th option and write your response in the box that opens.

 Option 1: NO. Writing isn't really my thing.	 Option 2: YES and NO. It depends on what I'm writing.
 Option 3: YES. I enjoy writing.	 Option 4: Other - Select this option to write a different answer.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/-LnkzmNxWvg>



QUESTION 11: Are you comfortable WRITING?

This question is required.

Like the previous question, when we say "writing", we're referring to using pen and paper, a computer, or other technology to communicate your thoughts with words.

While you'll need a way to record your answers for some of the homework and other activities, there are lots of different ways you can do that. For example, some people communicate with pictures, music, videos, drawing, and other artwork.

We actually encourage members to be as creative as possible as they work on projects for class. After all, being creative is an excellent quality in leaders. There's no wrong way to record your answers to the work we'll be doing together, so you won't need to write things in the traditional way if you'd prefer to draw, paint, record, or sing about them instead.

The responses we receive to this question will help us make our next class as accessible and inclusive as possible for everyone who joins us.

Please don't feel embarrassed if you're uncomfortable with reading or writing! The majority of previous class members weren't, either, and your answer won't affect your application in any way.

Select the response that best describes how comfortable you feel about writing from the following list. Once you've made your selection, a dialogue box will open so you can add comments or additional information about your response. If you have nothing else to share, make an "X" or type "none".

If you want to share a different answer, select the 4th option (Other) and write your response in the box when it opens.



CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/I3JSdtjgiUU>



QUESTION 12: Will anyone be taking the class with you to provide support?

This question is required.

Your support person is welcome to join you in class if you think you'll need their assistance to participate in the Leadership Series.

We require everyone who plans to be present when we meet to complete a separate application and follow the graduation requirements listed in section 5, including support staff.

If we accept your application for the next Leadership Series, we'll accept your support person, too, but they need to complete a separate application form.

Let us know if you'll have someone with you during class by selecting an answer from the 4 options listed below.

- Option 1: YES.** I need to bring a support person and I know who it is.
Write the name of the person who will be supporting you and describe how they're related to you. For example, are they a family member, friend, or paid support person. If you're not sure who this person will be yet, write that instead.
- Option 2: YES.** I need to bring a support person, but I'm not sure who will be with me, yet.
- Option 3: NO.** I won't be bringing a support person to class.
- Option 4: NOT SURE.** I don't know if I'll need a support person, yet. I want to talk about this at my interview.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: https://youtu.be/ziB0Y1Xd_I



QUESTION 13: Do you need any accommodations to participate in the Leadership Series?

This question is required.

We create class materials in multiple formats and strive to make them both accessible and as user-friendly as possible. The Leadership Series also takes place virtually, which means all of the homework assignments, handouts, and other resources we share will be available in digital format. In addition to saving some trees, that means you'll be able to use the *Browse Aloud* screen reader tool available on the Advocates in Action website, along with other accessibility features, to listen to the text, change the font size, and translate information into other languages if needed.

At the same time, we know everyone is unique, especially when it comes to communication styles and accommodations, and will work with you to provide the most appropriate accommodations possible to help you succeed.

Select one of the 3 options listed below to explain your accommodation requests.

- Option 1: NO.** I don't have any additional accommodation requests at this time.
If you select this option, remember you can always change your mind once the class begins! We'll be here to support you throughout our time together!
- Option 2: YES.** I will need the following accommodations to participate in next year's class.
If you already know the type of accommodations you'll need for class, enter them in the dialogue box when it opens. Please include as many details as possible.
- Option 3: YES.** I think I may need some additional accommodations to participate in class, but I don't know what type of support to request.
Select this option if you feel you may need some additional assistance, but you're not sure. Describe the types of things you need help with in the dialogue box so we can discuss how to accommodate you during your interview.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/F9EYdnx81OU>



QUESTION 14: Do you agree with our Leadership Series Participation and Privacy requirements?

This question is required.

Everyone who is applying for the Leadership Series must agree with our Participation and Privacy Requirements to graduate. We've listed these requirements below and included a dialogue box for your comments or questions.

Review the following Participation and Privacy Requirements and **CLICK EACH CHECKBOX** to let us know you agree.

Once you've indicated your agreement for all six requirements, **CLICK THE LAST CHECKBOX** on the list and share any comments or questions you have about them. If you don't have anything to add, write "none"?

Note: You must CLICK ALL 8 BOXES, or you won't be able to submit your application.

Requirement 1: Members must attend the virtual Kick-Off retreat on **Wednesday, February 7th**, and weekly classes, which begin on **Wednesday, February 14th**, and continue until the end of **June 2024**. Members are also responsible for confirming the date, time, and Zoom Meeting details before class begins.

- The retreat **starts at 10:30 am** and **ends at 2:30 pm**, with an hour-long break for lunch at noon.
- The **weekly classes run from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm**.

[Click the checkbox to let us know you agree with this requirement.](#)

Requirement 2: The Leadership Series is a BIG commitment! Classes meet every Wednesday from February 7th thru the end of June. Members should only miss class if they have an excused absence, or they may not be able to graduate.

An "excused absence" means you aren't able to attend class due to circumstances beyond your control.

For example, missing class because you're sick or you lose your internet connection are both excused absences. On the other hand, deciding to skip class and go to the beach definitely isn't one! In fact, too many unexcused absences could prevent you from graduating.

[Click the checkbox to let us know you agree with this requirement.](#)

Requirement 3: As a member of next year's Leadership Series, you'll have various assignments to work on outside of class. You'll also have a team of Peer Mentors that you can contact for assistance.

In the Leadership Series, you don't need to worry about failing because we don't assign any grades. But you do need to attempt to do the work, and you're welcome to ask a Peer Mentor for some help. Members must make an effort, even if they're unsure what the "right answer" is. Bring your work to class instead of arriving empty-handed.

[Click the checkbox to let us know you agree with this requirement.](#)

Requirement 4: I understand that there will be extra activities outside of class, such as virtual field trips, court hearings, public forums, various committee and workgroups, songwriting sessions, and other team-building activities. Although most of these will be optional, I agree to attend whenever possible.

[Click the checkbox to let us know you agree with this requirement.](#)

Requirement 5: Leadership Series members play a key role in helping to plan Rhode Island's Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference and are also required to attend the 2024 event in order to graduate.

[Click the checkbox to let us know you agree with this requirement.](#)

Requirement 6: The Leadership Series is a safe place to share personal information related to the topics we'll be discussing. This information is private and you must respect everyone's confidentiality. This means you won't repeat or discuss our confidential conversations with anyone outside of the Leadership Series, share a fellow class member's personal contact information without their consent, or give the login details for our private 2024 Leadership Series webpage to others.

[Click the checkbox to let us know you agree with this requirement.](#)

Requirement 7: Advocates in Action will be recording our time together on Zoom. These recordings will be available for class members to review on the Advocates in Action website. They will be taking photos and videos during the in-person events we may ask class members to attend.

I understand that Advocates in Action may use some of this material to promote their organization and publicize the Leadership Series, and that they will remove any personal information before doing so.

Some ways that Advocates in Action may share the photos and recordings include using them in their newsletter, resource materials, and other multimedia productions, as well as posting them on social media, such as their Facebook Page and YouTube channel.

[Click the checkbox to let us know you agree with this requirement.](#)

Add your questions, comments, or concerns about these requirements: Share your questions or comments about the graduation requirements here. If you don't have anything to add, write "none".

CLICK to watch the video companion: <https://youtu.be/KRqGyuNyKNQ>



Section 6: The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Service System and You

This section is about your connection to the RI DD System. You don't need to be connected to the DD System to join the Leadership Series. However, you should know in advance that we spend a significant amount of our time together discussing DD Services and Supports, how to navigate the DD system, and what options are available for those who either Self-Direct or use a Provider Agency to manage the Services they receive.

Your answer to the following question will help us customize our curriculum for this year's class.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: https://youtu.be/l97vziJnX_E



QUESTION 15: Do you currently receive DD services?

This question is required.

By "DD Services", we mean services and supports that are funded through the RI Division of Developmental Disabilities, such as Residential, Shared Living Arrangements, Supported Employment, and Community Day Supports.

Not every Rhode Islander who has an I/DD uses services that are funded through the Division. If you're someone who does, you can manage these services yourself ("Self-Direct"), go through a licensed Provider Agency, or use a combination of these 2 options.

Indicate whether or not you currently receive services funded through the RI Division of Developmental Disabilities by selecting one of the options listed below. Once you've made your selection, add the additional information requested in the box that opens.

Option 1: YES. I currently receive DD Services.

Describe the type of services you receive and whether you Self-Direct, use a Provider Agency, or a combination of both in the box that opens.

Option 2: NOT YET. I've already applied to the Division of Developmental Disabilities, but I haven't begun to receive services yet. For example, select this option if you're new to the DD System and still in the process of finding a Provider Agency or hiring your own Direct Support Staff.

If you've already applied and been found eligible by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, explain why you haven't begun to receive them in the box that opens.

Option 3: NO. I have an I/DD but I don't receive any services funded through the RI Division of Developmental Disabilities.

If you have an I/DD but are not receiving DD Services, explain why in the box that opens.

Option 4: N/A (Not Applicable). I don't have an I/DD, but I'm applying to support a fellow applicant who does.

Write the name of the person you'll be supporting in the box that opens.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/vGeK3HTpAJ0>



Section 7: About Being a Leader

As the name implies, this class is about leadership. Although we'll talk about things like, how to vote, and how to pick political leaders, the class isn't about politics! The topics we talk about are non-partisan. That means we don't promote one set of political beliefs over others, and we ask class members not to do it, either. Leadership can mean many different things to different people which have nothing to do with who the current president, governor, or local elected officials are.

Note, both of the questions in this section are "open-ended", which means you will need to write something instead of selecting your answer from a list. Some people refer to this as an "essay question", which can sound pretty scary, but we hope it isn't for you. We're really NOT looking for a lot of big or fancy words here, and we definitely aren't worried about how you spell them! =)

Please relax and feel free to write as little or as much as you want. Remember, these are your thoughts and ideas, so there's no wrong way to answer.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/LENRUPB-gW8>



QUESTION 16: Why are you applying for the Leadership Series?

This question is required.

We're really looking forward to hearing your thoughts about why you're applying, written in your words and voice!

Here are a few examples of what you could talk about if you get stuck. These are just ideas. You don't need to answer any of them unless you want to.

Idea 1: How did you hear about the Leadership Series?

Idea 2: If someone you know is a Leadership Series graduate, what did they do or say about their experience that inspired you to apply?

Idea 3: What do you hope to learn or achieve by taking the Leadership Series?

Share the reason(s) you want to join the Leadership Series in the space below:

CLICK to watch the video companion at: https://youtu.be/7_4Rfp-loM4



QUESTION 17: What does being a leader mean to you?

This question is required.

In this question, we'd like you to share some of your ideas about what it means to be a leader. As we mentioned above, Leadership means different things to different people. What does it mean to you?

There's no wrong way to answer. You could share an experience from your own life, talk about one of your favorite leaders and why you like them, or include a quote about leadership and what it means to you.

Or you can write something entirely different for your answer! Speak from your heart and let us know what you think.

Share what "being a leader" means to you in the space below:

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/7CI3wLuhQvA>



Section 8: About an Amazing Person named YOU!

Each of us comes with our life experiences, skills, interests, and ideas. We designed this section to help us learn about some of yours and get to know you better.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/KvUhPCfAtO4>



QUESTION 18: Who are you? Tell us about yourself!

This question is required.

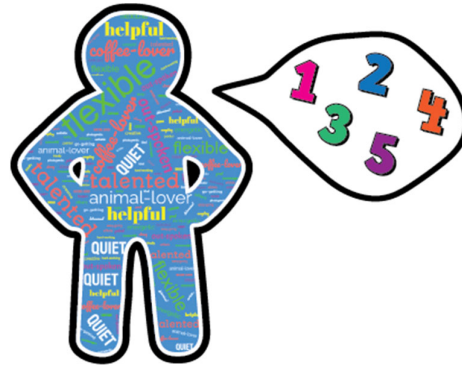
When we say, "tell us about yourself", we don't mean sharing your whole life story! We're also not looking for any personal or confidential information that you'd prefer to keep private. In this question, we're simply hoping to get to know a bit more about who you are and "what makes you tick".

Do you have a job or do volunteer work? Who do you live with? Do you belong to any sports teams or social groups? Are you taking any classes, either for fun or for school? Do you have any pets? What are some of your favorite hobbies? Do you play an instrument or sing? Are you an artist? Who do you call "family"?

As you can imagine from these few examples, the possibilities of what to share are endless! What you choose to include in your answer is also totally up to you, so let's hear it!

Tell us more about yourself in the space below:

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/ohjaHQ6QcOg>



QUESTION 19: What are 5 words or phrases that describe you?

This question is required.

In this next question, we'd like you to describe yourself in 5 words or short phrases. What are some of the qualities and characteristics that make you the person you are?

Your description should be about who you are on the inside, not how you look on the outside. What makes you unique?

Share five words or short phrases that capture your personality, individual qualities, and other characteristics in the space below:

#1 A word or phrase that describes me is:

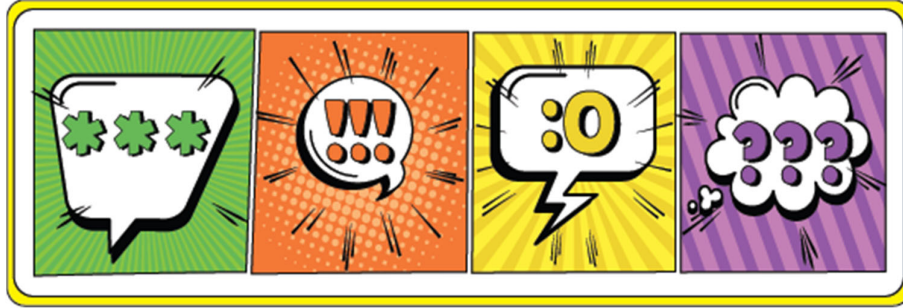
#2 A word or phrase that describes me is:

#3 A word or phrase that describes me is:

#4 A word or phrase that describes me is:

#5 A word or phrase that describes me is:

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/4qJbcSmDwyw>



Section 9: Final Thoughts

You've almost reached the end of the application! This last section is the place to share any other questions, comments, or concerns you have about joining the Leadership Series.

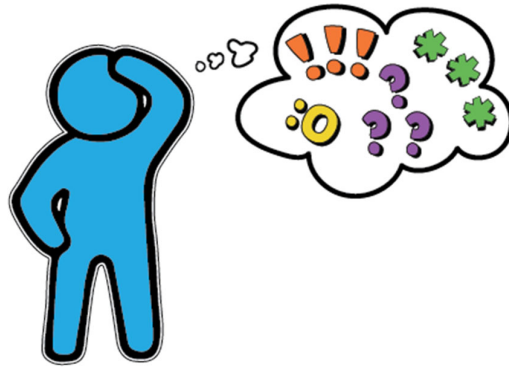
This is the 4th year we're offering the class online. While there have been a few speed bumps along the way, our recent graduates have enjoyed the flexibility of a virtual format and shared positive feedback about their experience overall.

In previous years we've had to cancel classes when it snowed. Members have also had to drop out because they didn't have a way to get there, while others had to leave early or wait for transportation after class because of staffing issues or problems with the RIDE bus.

After having conducted the Leadership Series virtually for the past several years, we know that those types of situations don't happen when members meet online. We've also had a great deal of success helping everyone learn the ins and outs of using the Zoom video app to connect virtually.

Remote learning can open up a whole new world of opportunities, and we're excited to have you join us!

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/VsF8IfAFZRk>



QUESTION 20: Is there anything else you'd like to share?

This is the last question, and it's optional.

As we mentioned above, there may be a few speed bumps during our time together, but that can happen with almost anything new (and lots of not-so-new stuff, too). Nevertheless, please let us know if you have

any questions or concerns about participating in next year's class. If you have suggestions about what we can do to address those concerns, we'd love to hear those, as well!

Your ideas will help us improve the Leadership Series experience for everyone. We'd never be able to do it alone, but together we can create something extraordinary!

With that in mind, we'll leave you with the space below to share any final words you may have.

CLICK to watch the video companion at: <https://youtu.be/03neCR7pEww>



Thanks for answering our questions!

Click the green **SUBMIT** button below to send us your completed Leadership Series application.

And before you go, we'd love your help spreading the word with others who may be interested.

The application address is www.tinyurl.com/LS24App



Remember, applications for the next year's class must be completed online and are due no later than

Friday, January 19th, 2024