



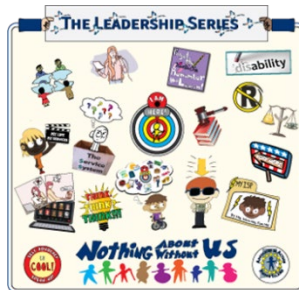
Class of 2026 Application Form

About the Application



This is an online application to join the Advocates in Action Leadership Series Class of 2026. This form is for people who have never taken the Leadership Series. If you're a Leadership Series graduate who wants to continue your education with our team at Advocates in Action, we invite you to join our Leadership Graduate Academy.

There's no cost to participate in the Series or the Graduate Academy, thanks to support from the Rhode Island Division of Developmental Disabilities. Use the following links to learn about both opportunities:



Visit www.advocatesinaction.org/leaders to learn about the Leadership Series.



Visit www.advocatesinaction.org/gradacad to learn about the Graduate Academy.

We created this form with an online tool called *QuestionPro*, so you'll see the words *Powered by QuestionPro* at the bottom of the pages. 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 Advocates in Action Leadership Series via questionpro.com.

We mention this so you know neither of these 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, this clears up any confusion.

How to Complete this Form



Please Note: The deadline to apply for the Class of 2026 is **Friday, January 16th**

This form has 20 questions, each of which should be answered by YOU, the applicant. Required questions will have an asterisk (*) and be highlighted in red. You must answer all the required questions before you can 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.

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 question 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 will appear, reminding you to finish answering the current question first.

Click the green button when you're ready to **continue**, and a second pop-up box will open to enter the email where you'd like us to send your saved application.

We've included an image of both pop-up boxes below for reference:

Two pop-up boxes are shown side-by-side. The left box has a white background and a yellow border. It contains the text: "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." At the bottom are two buttons: "Cancel" and "Continue". The right box has a white background and a yellow border. It contains the text: "Response ID: 123456789" followed by "Please enter your email address so that we can send you a link to the location that you have saved." Below this are two input fields: "Email Address" and "Confirm Email Address". At the bottom right is a green button that says "Email me the link".

We'll send a personalized link to the address you enter. You'll need this link to finish your application, so remember to check your email and save the message until you're ready to use it. 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 16th!**

Relax and Take Your Time



This is **NOT A TEST**

This isn't a test, so relax and take your time! These questions are about you. The only way to get an answer "wrong" is by skipping it.

Answer the following questions to the best of your ability, and don't worry about making a mistake.

We're Here to Help!



You can complete the form independently or ask someone you trust to assist you. You can also contact Advocates in Action by email at leaders@advocatesinaction.org or by phone at **1-877-532-5543**.

We'll be happy to walk you through the application process and answer any questions you may have.



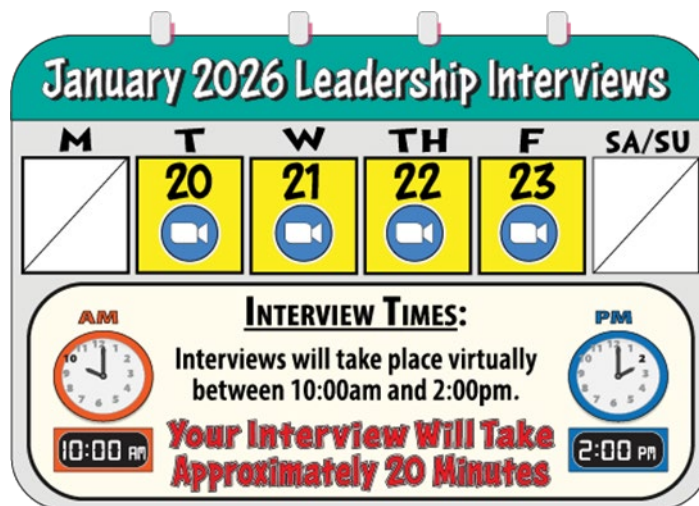
Once you've answered all the questions, click the green button at the end of the form to submit your application. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



**Schedule your interview
and join us on Zoom!**

Once we receive your application, our team will send you a copy of the completed form and 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 on the following days and times:

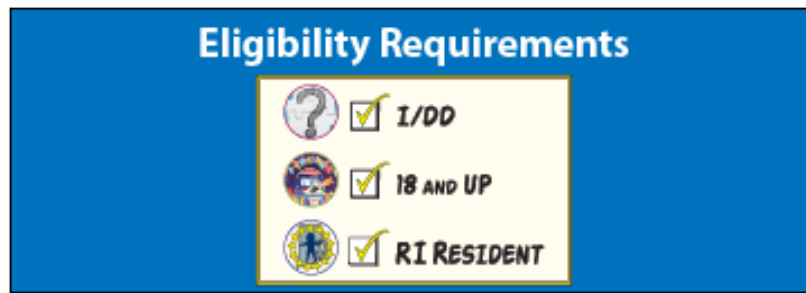


Interview Days:

Tuesday, January 20th | Wednesday, January 21st | Thursday, January 22nd | Friday, January 23rd

Interview Times:

Appointments are available **between 10:00 am and 2:30 pm.**



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.



Eligibility 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:

If you select the 2nd option, a box will open so you can add the name of the individual you'll be supporting in class.

☐ **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.

Note: This answer means you don't meet our eligibility requirements.



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:

- ☐ **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.
- ☐ **Option 3:** NO. I am not a RI resident.

Note: This answer means you don't meet our eligibility requirements.



Requirement 3: Are you age 18 or older? If not, will you be turning 18 in 2026?

*** This question is required.**

To be eligible for the Leadership Series, you must be at least 18 years old, which is the legal Voting age in Rhode Island, or celebrate your 18th birthday in 2026.

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

If you select the second option, a dialogue box will open to enter the date of your 18th birthday.

- ☐ **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 2026.

When is your 18th birthday?

Option 3: NO. I won't be old enough to vote by the end of 2026.

Note: This answer means you don't meet our eligibility requirements.

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 Two.



QUESTION 1: What is your full name?

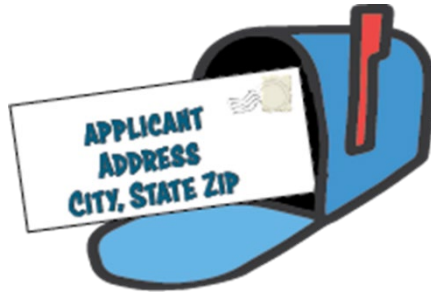
*** This question is required.**

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:



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.

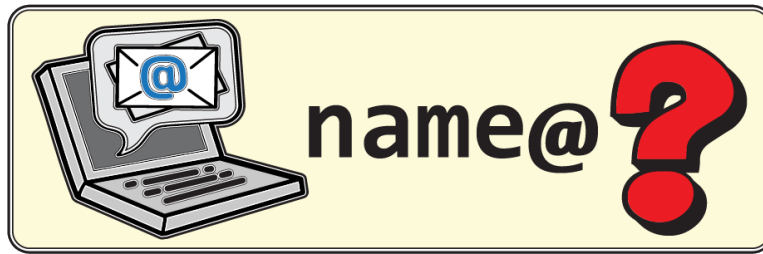
Enter your FULL MAILING ADDRESS in the space below:

Line 1. Address:

Line 2. City:

Line 3. State:

Line 4. Zip Code:



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

*** This question is required.**

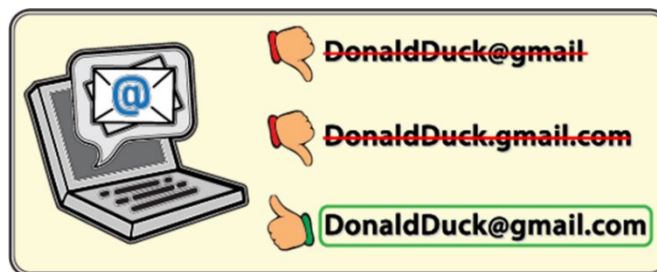
Applicants need to have a way to send and receive email. We'll be using email throughout our time together to share homework assignments, information about group projects and contests (with real prizes when you win!), extra resources about the topics we cover in class, and invitations to other meetings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

Enter the email address you'll be using for class:



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.

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

Enter the name of the person this email address belongs to and how they're related to you:



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, please remember to add a dash between the area code, the first three numbers and the last four numbers, or it won't be correct.



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.

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

Enter the name of the person this phone number belongs to and describe how they're related to you in the dialogue box that opens. For example, are they a family member, a friend, or a paid support 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.

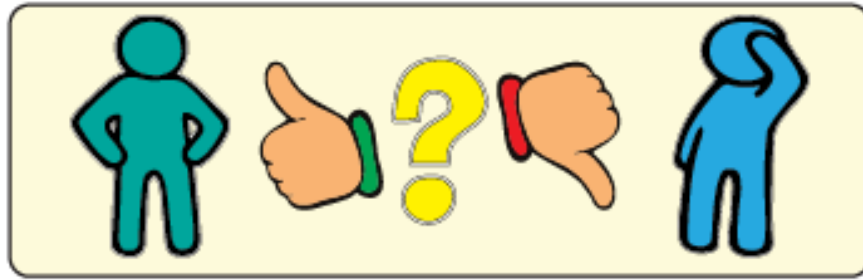
In addition, we can also send a copy of those messages to your designated contact person. When we do this, it means we'll send messages directly to you and will also include your contact person in our "Cc list" so they get a copy of the same information.

PLEASE NOTE: 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!



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:** Yes. I'd like to add a Contact Person.
- ☐ **Option 2:** No. I do not wish to add a Contact Person at this time.



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?*

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 with you meet 1:1 and help you get started.



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 extracurricular 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:



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.

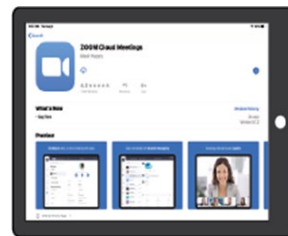
If at all possible, we strongly recommend using a computer with the Zoom Desktop App for the best overall experience possible. We don't recommend using a Smartphone to connect, but you're welcome to do so if that's your only option.

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.



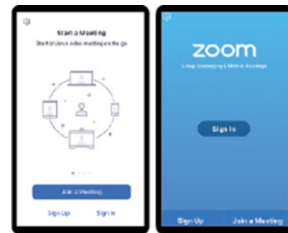
☐ **Option 1:**
Computer



☐ **Option 2:**
Tablet



☐ **Option 3:**
Chromebook



☐ **Option 4:**
Smartphone

☐ **Option 5: Other**

If your device isn't listed, add it here, along with any comments about the equipment you plan to use for class.



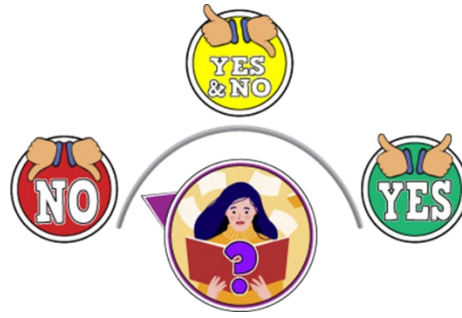
Section 4: Accommodations & Accessibility



This section is about any type of accommodations you may need to participate in the class. Although we ask if 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 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.



QUESTION 10: Are you comfortable READING?

*** This question is required.**

This question is about how comfortable you are with 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

Reading isn't really my thing



☐ Option 2: YES and NO

It depends on what I'm reading



☐ Option 3: YES

I enjoy reading



☐ Option 4: Other

Enter a different answer



QUESTION 11: Are you comfortable WRITING?

This question is required.

Like the previous question, when we say "writing", we mean using pen and paper, a computer, or other technology to communicate your thoughts with words. We do not mean using .ai technology.

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 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! Most of our 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. Enter any comments or information about your response in the box that opens or write none.

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

Enter a different answer



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.



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.

Enter your accommodation request below. 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.

The following seven requirements describe some of the time commitments, homework assignments, extracurricular activities, and privacy guidelines for Leadership Series Class members. We understand they may look like a lot of work, but remember, looks can be deceiving!

For example, you don't need to have any special training or technical skills to join us. Don't worry if you've never done some of the things on this list, like attending meetings using the Zoom Video App, researching an important topic on the internet, or giving a Virtual Presentation in front of a large group of people. We'll teach you about all those things and more during our time together!

Members will have access to a Peer Mentor. Peer Mentors are Leadership Series graduates who work for Advocates in Action to support current members. Your Peer Mentor can meet with you for a private Zoom session between classes to review materials, explain homework projects, and answer any questions you may have.

If you're concerned about these requirements or worried about something else that might prevent you from being part of next year's class, use the last item on the following list to open a dialogue box and explain your situation. We'll review that information with you and discuss how we can help during your interview.

Overall, rest assured that our Leadership Series team is flexible, creative, and committed to your success. We know you'll be amazing, and we'll be there to help figure things out whenever you need us, every step of the way!



QUESTION 14: Do you agree with our Leadership Series Graduation Requirements?

***This question is required.**

Everyone who is applying for the Leadership Series must agree with the following requirements to graduate.

Review all seven of the requirements listed below and **CLICK THE CHECKBOX** for each of them to let us know if you agree.

Once you've indicated your agreement, **CLICK THE LAST CHECKBOX** on the list to share any comments or questions you have about them. If you have nothing to add, make an **X** or write **NONE**.

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

☐ Requirement 1: Attend the Kick-Off retreat on Wednesday, February 4th, 2026

The retreat will take place on the Zoom Video Platform from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with an hour-long lunch break at noon.

☐ Requirement 2: Attend weekly classes on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

The Leadership Series is a BIG commitment! Classes meet every **Wednesday, from February 11th to June 24th, 2026**.

Attendance at weekly classes is an important graduation requirement! Members should only miss class if they have an excused absence. An "excused absence" means you can't 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 isn't an excuse.

☐ Requirement 3: Do the Work

As a member of the Leadership Series, you'll have various assignments to work on outside of class. You'll also have a team of Peer Mentors you can contact for assistance.

While we don't assign grades, we do require members to make an effort to complete these assignments and bring their answers to class. We also encourage everyone to ask for help as needed. After all, asking questions is one of the best ways to learn!

☐ **Requirement 4: Be as Involved as Possible**

Extra activities outside of class can include field trips, in-person meetings, public forums, webinars, songwriting sessions, and other team-building activities.

Many of these will be optional, but we encourage members to attend whenever possible.

☐ **Requirement 5: Practice Your Leadership Skills**

Leadership Series members will actively participate in planning and presenting at Rhode Island's Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference, scheduled for Thursday, May 7th, 2026.

The Conference Day will be held on Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and members are required to attend.

The Conference Dinner Dance will be at the Providence Marriott on Friday, May 8th.

Evening participation is optional, but we strongly encourage everyone to join us at this fun-filled event!

☐ **Requirement 6: Respect Privacy**

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 the confidentiality of fellow class members and our Leadership team!

This means you agree not to repeat confidential conversations that take place during class and won't share a fellow member's personal contact information without their consent.

☐ **Requirement 7: Photo/Video Release**

Advocates in Action will share recordings from our retreat and weekly classes on our private Leadership Series web page. We also take photos during our in-person activities.

Class members must agree to be recorded and allow Advocates in Action to use some of the media we produce on our website and other social media platforms.

☐ **Questions, Comments, or Concerns**

You can use this last item to share any questions, comments, or concerns you have about our Graduation Requirements.

Click the checkbox and share your feedback in the dialogue box when it opens. If you have nothing to add, make an **X** or write none.

Section 6: The RI DD System & 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.



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 if you currently receive services funded through the RI Division of Developmental Disabilities by selecting one of the options listed below.

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:

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.*

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 below:

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

Enter the name of the person you'll be supporting in class:

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 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.



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:



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:

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.



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:



QUESTION 19: What are five 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:

--

Section 9: Final Thoughts



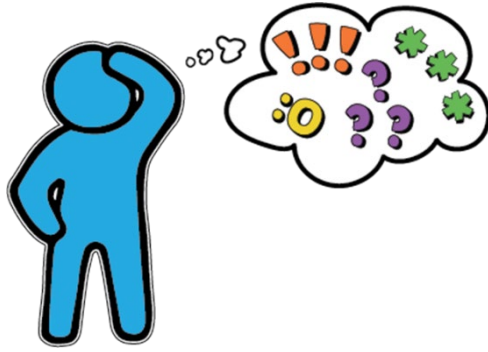
You've almost reached the end of the application! This last section is the place to share any other questions, comments, or concerns you have about joining the Leadership Series.

This is the 6th 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!



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.