



Leadership in Ethnically Diverse Communities (LEDC)

Who is the Blandin Foundation?

The Blandin Foundation is a private independent foundation based in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Its mission is to strengthen rural Minnesota communities, especially the Grand Rapids area, through grants, leadership programs and public policy initiatives.

What is the LEDC program?

The purpose of LEDC is to increase the capacity of rural leaders to develop and sustain healthy inclusive communities and reduce systemic racial and cultural barriers.

Who is it for?

The Blandin leadership programs serve rural Minnesota communities. The LEDC program is open to all community members. We recruit to have each community cohort represent a diverse population with a wide variety of networks including: gender identity, age (must be 18 and over), ethnicity, and sector; ex. businesses, nonprofits, government, healthcare and education, etc.

Recruitment efforts focus on individuals who are:

- Credible and open minded
- Actively (or would like to be) involved in community life
- Open to risk-taking
- Willing to work collaboratively to promote healthy community
- Passionate about their community's future

How many days is the training?

The Leadership in Ethnically Diverse Communities program is a seven-session program held within your community. From recruitment through the training sessions, the foundation partners with you for over a year. The sessions are about a month apart and run 9:00am – 2:30pm.

What will we learn at the sessions?

The curriculum is based around building a healthy community -a place to live where all people can meet their needs (economic, social, physical, cultural and spiritual), work together for the common good and participate in creating their future.

Session Learning

- Healthy Inclusive Community as a System
- Recognize cultural filters and how they impact views and interaction with others
- Experience the importance of trusting relationships for working across cultural differences
- Skills for building Intercultural Confidence
- Deepen understanding of your culture and the culture of others
- Working in effective small groups
- Interpersonal communication skills
- Knowing community resources
- Networking that brings together people, ideas and solutions
- Building inclusion in your community

What are the program costs?

The cost for program participants is their commitment of time and travel to the site. The Foundation covers the total cost of the program. Rural Leadership Access Funds can be applied for through the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation to help those who would have a valid financial barrier preventing them from attending.

For additional information contact Becky Adams, Recruitment Manager for the Blandin Leadership Programs at 877.882.2257 toll-free or email rmadams@blandinfoundation.org.

Blandin Foundation Leadership Programs does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender identity, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, selection of volunteers including program participants and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, participants, volunteers, independent contractors, and vendors.

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