



LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.  
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## LEAD Maryland Fellowship Applicant Reference Form

**Three (3) references must be obtained by the applicant.**

(Please print, copy, or forward this form as needed.)

References are due October 1, 2021. Applicants will be notified if references have not been received, and will be asked to take action to get any missing references submitted in a timely manner to remain eligible.

**Please return each completed reference form by October 1, to the LEAD Maryland Foundation:**

**Mail or Deliver:** LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.  
124 Wye Narrows Drive  
Queenstown, MD 21658

**Email:** [leadmd@umd.edu](mailto:leadmd@umd.edu)

The LEAD Maryland Fellowship Program is provided through a collaborative effort. The LEAD Maryland Foundation and the University of Maryland Extension and many other organizations, businesses, and individuals work to plan, implement, evaluate, and fund the Fellowship Program, its curriculum and activities. Thank you to all LEAD Program partners, funders, participants, and volunteers.

The LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to identifying and developing leadership to serve agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities. The LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. has been granted tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or natural origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.



# LEAD Maryland Fellowship Application Reference Form

Please type or print clearly.



## Recommendation for:

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(Name of person applying for LEAD Fellowship)

**To the LEAD Fellowship Applicant:** Give this form to a person you believe is able to comment on the nature and scope of your leadership and service potential, and your readiness to successfully complete a two-year fellowship. Please review this form in advance to be sure that the recommender can adequately complete the form and return it by October 1.

**To the Recommender:** The LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. (LEAD) provides an educational leadership development Fellowship. The LEAD Fellowship is intended for persons who have demonstrated emerging leadership abilities and leadership potential in agriculture, food, natural resources, and/or rural communities. Applicants who may have already "mastered" development of personal and leadership skills, or service to others, may not rank as high as those who show greater potential for growth through program participation. Fellows must have an ability and willingness to teach and share, at the same time they must have the maturity and readiness to learn, grow, and change to become leaders who serve others.

This recommendation will be held in strict confidence and should be returned directly to the LEAD Maryland Foundation office.

1. Rank how you know the applicant, with **1** being "superficially" to **10** being "know very well."

Superficially	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Very Well
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State how you know the applicant, and how long you have known the applicant:

2. Please indicate your reasons for believing that the applicant—as well as the agricultural, natural resources, or rural communities—would or would not benefit through this individual's participation in the leadership development training program. Your frank, confidential statements based on your knowledge are most appreciated.

3. LEAD seeks participants who demonstrate ability, willingness, **and need** to learn, share, teach, lead, and work as a team. Using just one or a few words (i.e. excellent, acceptable, fair, room for growth, etc.), please share your thoughts about the applicant after each:



- A. Applicant's sense of self-awareness to draw on strengths and overcome weaknesses:
- B. Applicant's confidence to move outside of their comfort zone and take on new challenges:
- C. Applicant's maturity and readiness to learn, grow, and change:
- D. Demonstrated leadership skills, and skills to be a productive group member:
- E. Applicant's current understanding of public policy and ability to have constructive dialogue with others, regardless of viewpoints:
- F. Applicant's commitment to engage with the public and advocate for agriculture, natural resources and rural communities:
- G. Overall assessment of the applicant's abilities to become a leader by serving others, chairing committees, facilitating discussions, strategic thinking, team building, problem solving, building networks, building consensus, and influencing public policy:

Recommender's information (print or type):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title or Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Recommender:

→ \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for completing & returning this recommendation to the LEAD Maryland office.*