MLK Leadership Development Institute

HARRISBURG, PA

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

2027 CLASS • INVITATION TO APPLY

Dear Prospective Participant:

You are invited to apply to participate in the 2027 Class of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Development Institute (MLKLDI).

The mission of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Development Institute is to prepare and empower individuals committed to exercising creative leadership to improve conditions in their communities.

MLKLDI provides an intensive leadership development experience grounded in the principles, philosophy, and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program combines leadership development, professional growth, public policy, community engagement, and practical tools that participants can use to create positive change within their organizations and communities.

Our principal instructor is Mr. Keith Ellison, CEO of the Ellison Group, a national leader in human resource and leadership development. Mr. Ellison holds a Bachelor of Arts in Electrical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University and an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

Throughout the program, supplementary guest presenters will address selected topics and emerging issues affecting communities. Participants will be challenged to examine those issues, identify innovative solutions, and consider how they can use their leadership abilities to strengthen their organizations and communities.

Program Focus

- Leadership and professional development
- The leadership philosophy and principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Public policy and civic engagement
- Community mobilization
- Organizational and interpersonal leadership
- Creative problem-solving
- Building collaborative relationships
- Applying leadership principles to real-world community challenges

Program Format

The 2027 MLKLDI sessions will be conducted virtually from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted. Because the program is virtual, individuals living outside the Greater Harrisburg area - and even internationally - are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should understand that MLKLDI is an intensive leadership development experience. Participants are expected to attend and actively participate in all scheduled sessions.

Application Requirements

The confidential MLKLDI application must be completed in its entirety and submitted along with the required reference form. The application and reference form must be received together for an applicant to be considered.

Because enrollment is limited to 30 participants, completed applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

APPLICATION DEADLINE	**December 15, 2026**
SELECTION NOTICE	**By January 2, 2027**

Tuition

Participants selected for the 2027 MLKLDI class will be responsible for a tuition fee of $1,750. Tuition may be paid in up to three installments, if necessary. All tuition payments must be completed by March 15, 2027. Discounts are available for organizations sponsoring multiple participants.

Mandatory Kick-Off Sessions

Attendance at the first two sessions is mandatory, with no exceptions:

- **Friday, January 22, 2027**
- **Friday, January 29, 2027**

Applicants should confirm their availability for both dates before submitting an application.

Tentative 2027 MLKLDI Schedule

Virtual sessions: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted

Session	Date	Notes
Session 1*	**January 22, 2027**	**Mandatory Kick-Off**
Session 2*	**January 29, 2027**	**Mandatory Kick-Off**
Session 3	February 5, 2027	
Session 4	February 12, 2027	
Session 5	February 19, 2027	Extended Session
BREAK	**One Week**	
Session 6	March 5, 2027	
Session 7	March 12, 2027	
Session 8	March 19, 2027	
Session 9	March 26, 2027	
BREAK	**One Week**	**Includes Good Friday**
Session 10	April 9, 2027	
Session 11	April 16, 2027	
Session 12	April 23, 2027	
Session 13	April 30, 2027	
Session 14	May 7, 2027	
Session 15	May 14, 2027	
BREAK	**One Week**	**Includes Memorial Day**
Session 16	May 28, 2027	
Session 17	June 4, 2027	Extended Session
GRADUATION	**June 13, 2027**	

*** Attendance at the January 22 and January 29 kick-off sessions is mandatory.**

Next Steps

To be considered for the 2027 Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Development Institute, the application must be completed in its entirety and accompanied by the required reference form.

Should you have questions regarding the program, application process, tuition, or organizational discounts, please contact:

Merrick Green
Executive Director
Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Development Institute
info@mlkldi.org

We encourage you to consider this opportunity to strengthen your leadership skills, expand your professional and community network, and join a community of leaders committed to carrying forward the principles and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We look forward to receiving your application and welcoming the MLKLDI Class of 2027.

Sincerely,
Merrick Green
Executive Director
Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Development Institute