



NASLEE 2026 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY APPLICATION

NASLEE's Leadership Academy is an intensive professional development opportunity for state leaders of early childhood policy and improvement initiatives serving children prenatal to grade 3. Applicants may be located in a variety of state agencies. Please see the [NASLEE Leadership Academy Webpage](#) for more information. Applications are **due on Friday, December 5 by 6 pm EST** to Lori Connors-Tadros at ltadros@nieer.org and Mandy Sorge at mandy.sorge@naslee.org

STRUCTURE OF THE APPLICATION

Part I – 60 points | point totals are noted in brackets for each of the three questions.

Part II – 20 points | capstone project and description.

Part III – 20 points | experience and background

Part IV - No points| Applicant commitments

Part I: QUESTIONS FOR APPLICANTS [60 points]

1. Why do you want to be part of the NASLEE Leadership Academy? (10 points)
2. What goals do you have to improve your leadership effectiveness? (20 points)
3. Briefly describe the role you have in making policy, practice or funding decisions in your state's early childhood programs or system? (15 points)
4. Describe an example of when you exercised leadership to improve early childhood policy or programs. Please note what you were trying to accomplish, why you think you were successful or unsuccessful, and upon reflection, how you may improve your leadership effectiveness. (15 points)

PART II. CAPSTONE PROJECT [20 points]

Each Leadership Academy fellow will complete a capstone project by the conclusion of the Leadership Academy. The capstone project is intended to help you achieve a personal goal in your current role, advance your growth as a leader and apply concepts and strategies from the Leadership Academy meetings and coaching.

1. Describe a problem you want to solve or a project within your current role that offers you an opportunity to apply the new leadership and management skills you will learn during the Leadership Academy.



2. What is the intended impact of the project on policy or practice for early childhood education?
3. How do you expect the proposed project will help you to expand and/or improve your leadership skills?
4. What partners, resources (material or financial), or conditions do you think will be needed for your project to be successful?

PART III. Experience and Background [20 points]

Please describe your current role and responsibilities. Discuss how your background, education and experience has contributed to your leadership journey. Please note if you have previously completed any leadership certificates or courses or if you are currently pursuing a degree or other credential.

Resume - Please attach your most current CV or resume. Reviewers will read your CV or resume to inform their understanding of your career progression and accomplishments to date.

Agency Reference - Please provide a professional reference from a colleague in your agency - for example, your supervisor, a colleague, a staff member you supervise.

Outside Reference - Please provide a reference from a colleague outside the agency - preferably someone you have worked with to advance your vision for early childhood education.

Agency Organization Chart - Please attach a current organizational chart for your agency or office. The diagram should clearly show where you are situated within your agency or you should provide a narrative sentence to provide that information.

PART IV. APPLICANT COMMITMENTS

Applicant Signature

NOTE: By my signature below, I confirm that I meet the requirements of NASLEE Leadership Academy applicants and commit to attending and fully participating in all elements of the program.

Applicant's Signature:

Applicant's Title:

Print Name:



Date:

Supervisor Signature

NOTE: Your supervisor's signature indicates permission to attend the intensive 9 month NASLEE Leadership Academy and to participate fully in all of its components, including out-of-state travel.

Supervisor Signature:

Supervisor Title:

Print Name:

Date:

Agency Head Signature (e.g., superintendent, commissioner, Secretary)

NOTE: Your agency head's signature indicates support for your participation in the NASLEE Leadership Academy.

Agency Head Signature:

Print Name:

Title:

Date:

