



Beneficiary Application:

Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Leadership Program Community Service Project

About the Leadership ECT Program: In continuous operation since 1987, this immersive two year program aims to expose promising leaders to pertinent issues that affect our communities, businesses and the public. With better understanding of these subjects and the region as a whole, these individuals will be better able to contribute their resources to making a difference in many ways.

Purpose of the Leadership Community Service Project: The project offers an opportunity for business leaders to work together, enacting the skills and lessons they have learned during the course of the program, in order to leave a lasting impact on the beneficiary organization and the community it serves.

Requirement and Guidelines:

For the receiving organization:

- Must be a recognized 501(c)(3).
- Must be a Chamber of Commerce Eastern CT member in good standing.
- Must be physically located in New London, Middlesex, or Windham County, and must serve the needs of any of those communities.
- Must not have been a previous Leadership Project beneficiary within the last seven years.

For the Project:

The project must have a finite timeline: completion must be feasible for 25-30 people to complete in an eight (8) month period, from planning to execution. Participants may independently choose to volunteer with the organization after the program has ended.

The project must include a hands-on aspect, and may also include fundraising and/or a collection drive. Those facets may overlap – for example, planning a special event includes both soliciting funds and working at the event.

Funds will be raised by the program participants. The amount raised will vary by project, but **a project cannot be expected to exceed a budget of \$5,000**. An anticipated budget over this amount does *not* negate the applicant's potential for selection, but parts of the proposal may be adjusted by the group and will be discussed with the applicant. Should the group's fundraising exceed their project costs, anything remaining will be donated to the charity upon project completion. During the project period, all funds will be managed by the participants through the administration of the Chamber.

The project will not serve as a simple source of volunteers for an existing event, without any greater opportunity for development and teamwork. For example, participants will not simply staff an annual golf tournament or Gala.

The Chamber reserves the right to refuse consideration of a project proposal if it is deemed dangerous, too controversial or otherwise contentious, or not in service of a current Chamber member.



Examples of Past Projects:

- **2019:** Creating a client-friendly outdoor setting at the new facility of The Light House
- **2018:** Building a storage shed/unit for landscaping microbusiness of The Arc New London County
- **2017:** Renovating client kitchen and other family spaces for Madonna Place
- **2016:** Gardening and infrastructure improvements to the landscape of New London Homeless Hospitality Center; fundraising for maintenance costs
- **2015:** Designing, assembling and stocking a “career resource closet”; fundraising for purchase of future clothing for Our Piece of the Pie
- **2014:** Painting, refurbishing, and gardening at client housing; donating toiletries and essential items for Reliance House
- **2013:** Painting and furnishing classrooms at the Drop-In Learning Center; donation of class e-readers
- **2012:** Fundraising for OIC scholarships; re-stripping the parking lot; painting and refurbishing rooms of Covenant Shelter

Selection Process:

The Leadership Program will begin with Orientation in September, at which time the participants will be provided with proposals for review. Program participants will discuss the most viable project and contact the accepted organization between October and November. The project must be completed by the end of June, 2020. All applicants will be notified of the outcome. If you have applied in the past without being selected, you may submit the same or another proposal each year. Each group’s priorities and causes of interest will vary.

Ultimately, please keep in mind that all participants are volunteers and cannot be expected to perform something physically monumental or exceedingly costly. The Chamber would be happy to recommend a professional service for your larger needs.

To Apply:

Visit www.ChamberECT.com/leadership for an online application.

Be sure to address:

- Overview of organization’s mission and community served
- Project proposal, including effect on the beneficiary and local community
- Expected budget
- Any unique circumstances volunteers should be aware of, ie. background checks, age restrictions, skills, or physical health requirements

FYI:

Charities that serve children and families should also be aware of the Chamber Foundation’s annual grant distribution, with applications due each February. Learn more at www.chamberECT.com/foundation.