



CORO LEAD LA FAQs

What is Coro Southern California?

Coro's mission is to strengthen the democratic process by preparing individuals for effective and ethical leadership.

Coro believes that Southern California needs a community of leaders who can engage in systems thinking and possess the ability to collaborate with other innovators across sectors, ideologies, and backgrounds. To accomplish that vision, Coro's programs blend experiential, classroom, and cohort-based learning to develop key leadership competencies.

Founded in 1957, Coro Southern California runs a variety of programs (Fellows Program in Public Affairs, Lead LA, Women in Leadership, Youth Fellows Program, and CoroX) all toward a goal of providing emerging leaders with critical thinking, self-awareness, communication, collaboration, and network-building skills to impact change.

What is Lead LA?

Solutions to complex challenges in Southern California require leaders across industries who understand its unique civic and political landscape, have the network to leverage resources across sectors, and skill sets to work within and through systems. Lead LA is designed to find and cultivate such leaders.

A nine-month, part-time fellowship program mobilizing Coro Southern California's innovative and unique leadership and public affairs modules via experiential, hands-on, collaborative trainings, Lead LA is designed for emerging and established leaders to expand their leadership capacity, knowledge and networks in Southern California. The program uses Greater Los Angeles as its classroom with participants coming away with a deeper understanding of themselves, the region, the power players, and the issues that all work in concert to create the unique fabric that is Los Angeles. Through this immersive dive into the city, participants gain the tools and experiences necessary to lead and direct change within their own organizations.

What can I expect from my participation in Lead LA?

Lead LA includes over 100 hours of facilitated training sessions, including a half-day weekend program orientation and half-day weekend leadership session, a three-day, overnight retreat at a location outside (but within driving distance) of Los Angeles, four, full-day weekend leadership retreats held in Los Angeles, and six, full-day policy issue days held in Los Angeles on Fridays. The program includes optional events where cohorts can engage with participants of other Coro Southern California programs.

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While facilitated by talented leadership and public affairs trainers, Coro uses a cohort-driven experiential model that enables participants to learn from hands-on practice and collaboration. As Coro alumni often note, you get out of Coro what you put in. So Lead LA participants should be ready to physically and mentally show up for all sessions.

How much does it cost?

Lead LA costs \$5,000 for the nine-month, part-time program. This amounts to about \$45 per facilitated hour of leadership development and public affairs training and includes accommodations and meals for the overnight retreat and meals during the leadership retreat sessions. Payment plans are available and will be communicated to candidates at the time of acceptance. Accepted candidates will be required to submit a deposit to secure their spot in the cohort. Once a participant has confirmed their participation after acceptance, all payments are final and non-refundable.

What financial support is available?

Many participants receive full or partial financial support for Lead LA from their employers as part of their organization's professional development efforts. We encourage participants to seek their employer's or another sponsor's support. We have prepared an Employer Benefits brochure, which outlines organizational benefits of participating in Lead LA.

Limited need-based partial scholarships are available. To be considered for a partial scholarship, please indicate such on your application and answer the subsequent questions on the application. Acceptance letters will include any scholarship and payment plan options. Full scholarships are not available.

What is the application process?

Interest candidates may contact Coro Southern California to learn more about the program, complete the Interest Form to be notified of important dates and upcoming Lead LA events, and attend an information session.

Applications open by the end of March for the Fall cohort. Applications are all online and include basic demographic information, three essays, and a professional reference. If you are interested in being considered for limited, need-based scholarship support, be sure to complete those questions prior to submission.

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Application forms do not save and must be completed and submitted in one sitting. It is recommended that you type your essay responses in your word processing software of choice and copy and paste your responses into the application.

The application deadline is listed on the Lead LA website and application, but is generally at the end of June or early July.

I have submitted my application to Coro Lead LA. What happens next?

Following review by a committee, applicants who proceed will have their professional reference contacted. Following or prior to a conversation with the provided reference, Coro Southern California may schedule and conduct phone/virtual interviews with candidates. More details will be provided regarding interviews, if necessary.

After the selection committee has made their decisions, Coro Southern California will contact candidates with their decision by the end of July or early August. If accepted, candidates must secure their spot in the cohort by confirming their participation via email within 3 days of notification and submitting a non-refundable program deposit of \$500 within 7 days of notification. Waitlisted candidates will be notified as/if spots become available and will 3 days to confirm participation by writing and submit the non-refundable program deposit.

What is the program attendance policy?

Coro uses experiential learning methodology; you will not learn from the cohort and the cohort cannot learn from you if you are not present. Arriving late/leaving early from sessions is counted toward an absence with only four absences permitted. The off-site Opening Retreat is required (no arriving late/leaving early). Expect additional planning hours for Issue Days, Open Sessions, and other events. Review the Program Calendar prior to confirming participation, if accepted. Note: dates and issue day topics are subject to change prior to the start of the program.

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