

FOUNDATIONS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



The Foundations in Local Government Leadership Certification Program provides an unparalleled opportunity for League members to shape the future of local government operations and education. This program provides the foundation needed to provide exceptional local governance.

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

The League is partnering with Penn State University to provide a professional development pathway that focuses on workforce development that is accessible and practical. This stackable credentialing program elevates the expertise of local government elected and appointed officials as well as aspiring government staff with more than 40 hours of core operational, programmatic, and leadership skills. Specialized tracks can strengthen expertise across key functional areas.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The program offers 9 core courses plus one elective for a total of 10 courses. While League members can choose individual courses as desired, completing all 10 will earn the certification.

Courses are each four hours in length and will be offered in the Fall and Spring, with the options to attend virtually, in-person, or hybrid format. One course will also be offered on-site at our annual Leadership Summit in Hershey! The Schedule of Classes can be found [here](#).

WHY DO IT?

Our Members are valued for their experience in, and contributions to, local government. Since this is a pilot program, Members have the exclusive opportunity to test drive the courses and the certification program and provide feedback and guidance in the development of the program, while adding to their knowledge base. Courses are designed for both elected officials and staff.

The League Member price for this pilot program is \$95 per course. Space is limited, and future public pricing will be higher.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS? CONTACT

JOHN BRENNAN, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

(814) 375-4836 | jpb367@psu.edu



FALL 2026 CORE COMPETENCY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

FOUNDATIONS OF PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE/INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Gain a practical understanding of how local, state, and federal governments work together in Pennsylvania. Explore governmental structures, responsibilities, and relationships while developing the knowledge needed to navigate and lead within the Commonwealth's intergovernmental environment.



TUESDAYS
SEPT. 8, 15, 22, 29



12:00 -
1:00 P.M.

Virtual via Zoom

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



THURSDAY, OCT. 22
& FRIDAY, OCT 23



9:00 -
11:00 A.M.

Virtual via Zoom

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

UNDERSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Build a strong foundation in effective local governance by exploring the legal requirements, governance principles, and best practices that support effective local government in Pennsylvania. Gain practical tools to support ethical decision-making, productive board-staff relationships, and transparent, accountable government operations.



THURSDAYS
SEPT. 10, 17, 24, OCT. 1



6:00 -
7:00 P.M.

Virtual via Zoom

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4
& THURSDAY, NOV. 5



1:00 -
3:00 P.M.

Virtual via Zoom

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

COMMUNICATIONS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Develop practical communication skills to engage residents, elected officials, staff, and community partners with confidence. Learn strategies for clear messaging, media and crisis communications, civic engagement, and accessible communication that strengthens trust and public service.



SATURDAY
SEPT. 19



8:30 A.M. -
12:30 P.M.

In-Person

*Warren/Forest Higher
Education Council
589 Hospital Dr.
Suite F
Warren, PA 16365*

*Schuylkill Community
Education Council
1 West Centre St.
2nd Floor
Mahanoy City, PA 17948*

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



WEDNESDAY
NOV. 18



1:00 -
5:00 P.M.

In-Person

*Penn State Great Valley
126/127 Main Building
1st Floor
30 E. Swedesford Rd.
Malvern, PA 19355*

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

ADVANCED ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Strengthen your ability to lead through change by developing practical skills in strategic planning, organizational alignment, and long-term decision-making. Learn how to navigate competing priorities, align people and resources, and position your organization for lasting success.



WEDNESDAY
OCT. 7



8:00 A.M. -
12:00 P.M.

In-Person

*Municipal Leadership Summit
Hershey Lodge & Convention Center
325 University Dr.
Hershey, PA 17033*

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



THURSDAY
NOV. 12



8:30 A.M. -
12:30 P.M.

In-Person

*Penn State Altoona
3000 Ivyside Park
137 Hawthorn Building
Altoona, PA 16601*

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)