Leaders across Borders
Healthy communities in the U.S.-México border region

Now accepting applications for 2015

What is Leaders across Borders?
Leaders across Borders (LaB) is an advanced leadership development program funded by the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission (BHC) aimed at building binational leadership capacity of public health, health care, and other community sectors working to improve the health of communities in the U.S.-México border region. The United States-México border region is defined as the area of land being 100 kilometers (62.5 miles) north and south of the international boundary (La Paz Agreement).

Who should participate?
This program is intended for public health, health care, and other community-sector leaders who meet the following requirements:

- Have at least five years experience working in the U.S.-México border region
- Committed to working with vulnerable populations and promoting health equity, eliminating health disparities, and increasing quality of life within the U.S.-México border region
- Seeking to enhance their leadership and health diplomacy skills, professional networks, and understanding of binational public health assets, challenges, and systems as a means to identify solutions

How will I benefit?
Participants will receive the following through their participation in the LaB program:

- A better understanding of personal leadership strengths and opportunities for improvement
- Enhanced collaborative leadership and health diplomacy skills
- An improved understanding of the U.S.-México border region and its populations, health systems, and government and non-government institutions
- Increased cultural competency
- Strengthened trans-border professional networks
- A Certificate/Diplomado from the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey

What is the required time commitment?

(160 hours)
Selected candidates will participate in—

- All LaB in-person learning events, which amount to approximately 12 days including travel time (a three-day orientation, a three-day retreat, and a three-day end of program/graduation)
- Activities that develop personal leadership skills (50 hours) and binational action-learning team projects (20 hours) that address complex border health concerns and leadership challenges through monthly distance team meetings, assisted by a team facilitator, and independent work
- Coursework to include the following:
Introduction to Epidemiology in the México-U.S. Border Region (10 hours)
Health Diplomacy (10 hours)
Management and Leadership for Regional Health Policies and Programs (40 hours)
Analysis and Improvement of Health Care Processes in the Border Region (30 hours)

• Activities designed to solicit feedback and provide evaluation information

What are the travel requirements?
Selected participants will be required to—

• Attend all program events held on both sides of the U.S.-México border
• Possess valid passports and visas

Note: Scholarships may be available to offset travel, lodging, and per diem expenses. For more information, contact Christine Cervantez or Gabriela Escalante González (see below for contact information).

What are the preferred participant qualifications?
LaB participants should meet the following criteria:

• Serve as health professionals regardless of academic level
• Possess five years experience working in public health, health-related fields, or community settings within the U.S.-México border region
• Currently work in a leadership role
• Be proficient in English and Spanish

What are the important dates?
The following dates and locations are subject to change:

• February 20, 2015 Application Deadline
  *Submissions required no later than 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time
• March 12, 2015 Notification of Selected Participants
• April 20–23, 2015 Orientation—Monterrey, Nuevo León
• July 20–23, 2015 Retreat—Tijuana, Baja California
• October 7–9, 2015 Graduation—Phoenix, Arizona

How do I apply?
Proposed participants must be formally nominated by their employer/professional organization to be eligible to participate in the program. Once formally nominated by your employer/professional organization, interested applicants are required to complete the online application.

To assist you in this process, please adhere to the following steps:

• Complete the online application found at www.borderhealth.org
• Submit a brief essay (1,000 words) that includes these points:
− How will this program help you meet some of your individual training and leadership development needs?
− What is a key area of concern or a public health priority for you, and how will this program help you address it?
− How can this program help strengthen your organization’s capacity to binationally promote healthy communities in the border region?
− What key partnerships or systems would you like to develop or strengthen to reduce health inequities and promote healthy communities in the U.S.-México border region?
− If you do not meet the preferred qualifications please describe the knowledge, skills, and experiences you bring to the program

- Submit curriculum vitae or resume
- Submit two letters of recommendation. One letter from your immediate supervisor is required
- Submit scholarship request, if applicable
- Agree to program commitments listed on the application

Important: As you will be applying electronically, please have all required items listed above readily available before you begin the application process. Once you begin the online application, you will be required to complete the entire process. You will not be allowed to save your place in order to return to it at a later time.

Where can I get more information?

U.S. Applicants

Christine Cervantez, Coordinator
U.S.-México Border Health Commission
Arizona Outreach Office
Office of Border Health
Arizona Department of Health Services
Email: Christine.Cervantez@azdhs.gov
Phone: (520) 770–3114

México Applicants

Lic. Gabriela Escalante González, Coordinadora de Relaciones Institucionales
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