FasterCures LeadersLink Program
2024–2025 Participant Application

In order to be considered for the FasterCures LeadersLink Program, candidates must complete an application by February 29, 2024, which consists of:

- **an online application form and questionnaire;**
- **a current resume/curriculum vitae (limit six pages);**
- **one letter of reference; and**
- **an interview, if needed.**

If you have any questions about the application or experience technical challenges, please contact Katie Forth at fcleaderslink@milkeninstitute.org or 202-336-6414. For additional details on the FasterCures LeadersLink Program, please visit our program webpage.

Application Instructions for Participants

Instructions for each application component:

Online Application
The online application will be open from January 8, 2024, to February 16, 2024. The online application will consist of a series of multiple-choice and narrative response questions. Applicants are encouraged to write and save their responses in a word processing program and copy and paste responses into the application form when submitting the application. Participants are able to start an application and come back to it later, but in order for this setting to work properly, the respondent must use the same device and web browser they used to start the survey.

Resume/Curriculum Vitae
An up-to-date resume or CV in PDF should be uploaded with the application. Please limit it to six pages. It should include any relevant work experience, educational experience, honors, awards, and accomplishments.

Letter of Reference
Applications should be accompanied by one letter of reference from peers or colleagues of the applicant. The letter of reference should address why the candidate would be a good fit for the program and any relevant knowledge of past accomplishments, knowledge, or skills. A PDF of the signed letter should be uploaded with the application.

Interview Process

Applicants may be asked to participate in an interview, to be conducted via video conference, to aid in the selection process. Participants will be contacted on an as-needed basis, likely in mid- to late February 2024, and should be prepared to accommodate an hour-long interview.

Application Process Timeline
- January 8, 2024: Application opens
- February 29, 2024: Application deadline (11:59 p.m. EST)
- March 1-8, 2024: Application review period
- March 11–13, 2024: Interviews of finalists (if needed)
- March 2024: Notification of selection status

For any questions related to the application or LeadersLink program, contact **fcleaderslink@milkeninstitute.org.**

1. Please enter your contact information
   Name:
   Title:
   Organization:
   Address Line 1 (Street, Apt/Suite, etc.):
   Address Line 2 (City, State, Country, Postal Code):
   Email:
   Phone:
   Website:

Program Requirements

2. In order to gain maximum benefit from the LeadersLink Program, participants should be able to commit to the required program components. Please indicate your ability to complete the following (select all that apply):
   ☐ Attendance at the 2024 Milken Institute Global Conference (May 5–8, 2024, Los Angeles)
   ☐ Attendance at the 2024 Milken Institute Future of Health Summit (tentatively scheduled for first week of December 2024 in Washington, DC)
   ☐ Completion of a capstone project over the duration of the program (April 2024–December 2025), which will focus on engaging diverse patients across the spectrum of R&D. This will include participation in the following components at a minimum:
   - An introductory capstone project brainstorming sharing session
   - Development of a capstone project plan
   - Interim capstone presentation
   - Final capstone video presentation
   ☐ Quarterly engagement with a program mentor (either in person or via Zoom/conference calls) to provide updates on capstone progress and to seek and exchange advice and ideas
   ☐ Quarterly engagement with fellow cohort participants through topic-focused and open forum sharing sessions
   ☐ Attendance at annual leadership development opportunity (Q4 of 2024 and 2025)

3. If you did not select all of the check boxes in question 2, please provide an explanation as to why you will not be able to complete all of the program components. (Please enter "N/A" if you selected all question 2 check boxes).

Organizational Information

4. Does your organization fund medical research?
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No

5. What disease indication(s) is your organization active in? Please list all:

6. Is your disease area(s) of focus rare or common?
   - ☐ Rare
   - ☐ Common
   - ☐ Blend of Both
   - ☐ Unknown
   - ☐ Other (please specify)

7. How many full- or part-time professional staff does your organization employ?
   - ☐ 0
   - ☐ 1-10
   - ☐ 11-50
   - ☐ 51-100
   - ☐ 101-250
   - ☐ 251-500
   - ☐ More than 500

8. What year was your organization founded?

9. In the most recent fiscal year for which you have data, what were your organization's annual expenditures on all activities?
   - ☐ <$100,000
   - ☐ $100,000-$999,999
   - ☐ $1,000,000-$1,999,999
   - ☐ $2,000,000-$9,999,999
   - ☐ $10,000,000-$100,000,000
   - ☐ >$100,000,000

10. In the most recent fiscal year for which you have data, what were your organization's annual expenditures devoted to research?
    - ☐ <$100,000
    - ☐ $100,000-$999,999
    - ☐ $1,000,000-$1,999,999
    - ☐ $2,000,000-$9,999,999
    - ☐ $10,000,000-$100,000,000

☐ >$100,000,000

11. In the most recent fiscal year for which you have data, how much of your organization's annual expenditures on research consisted of grants to academic researchers?
☐ <$100,000
☐ $100,000-$999,999
☐ $1,000,000-$1,999,999
☐ $2,000,000-$9,999,999
☐ $10,000,000-$100,000,000
☐ >$100,000,000

12. Are you serving as chief executive at your current organization (i.e., chief executive officer, president, executive director, or equivalent)?
☐ Yes
☐ No

13. How long have you been serving as chief executive of your current organization? (Enter "N/A" if this does not apply)

14. How long have you been employed at your current organization?

15. Is this your first time serving as a chief executive?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ N/A

16. Please tell us what other organizations you have served as chief executive and for how long?

17. Please describe your personal qualities and accomplishments as a leader.

18. Please describe your current challenges as a leader, as well as citing a past challenge and how you addressed it.

19. Please describe the vision for your organization's growth and development in the near- to medium-term.

20. Why do you want to participate in the LeadersLink program? What do you want to learn? What could you teach others?

21. Beyond engaging more diverse patients in R&D, what additional topics and expertise areas are you hoping to build and improve upon as a leader? Please note: We may not be able to address all areas as part of the program but may use this information to help pair you with a mentor. (select top 3)

☐ Clinical trial conduct and recruitment

☐ Exploring new investing and funding opportunities

☐ Advancing therapies related to your disease state(s) of interest

☐ Ensuring patient access to new treatments

☐ Creating or growing a patient community for patients to share experiences and ideas

☐ Venture philanthropy investing

☐ Exploring, starting, or running collaborative research networks/initiatives

☐ Increasing patient input and perspectives in the R&D process

☐ Increasing baseline knowledge on R&D topics, stakeholders, policies, and procedures

☐ Conducting patient disease burden, quality of life, caregiver burden, and other patient-focused research/studies

☐ Engaging in policy and advocacy activities that advance R&D policy and practice

☐ Evaluating the impact of your research funding

☐ Assessing the scientific or strategic merit of new funding opportunities

☐ Setting terms and conditions for funding of academic institutions and/or biopharmaceutical companies

☐ Building patient data resources, registry platforms, or other real-world data resources

☐ Managing or developing a governing board/governance structure

☐ Managing or developing a scientific advisory board

☐ Clinical/research center development

☐ Creating a research roadmap or organizational strategy/strategic plan

☐ Other (please specify)

22. What leadership topics are you interested in exploring as part of the LeadersLink program? (select top 3)

☐ Sustaining leadership in complex times

☐ Accelerating innovative change in organizations

☐ Moving from the reactionary to the intentional

☐ Utilizing language to drive results and relationships

☐ Managing conflict resolution

☐ Empowering teams and communities

☐ Establishing and building trust

☐ Maintaining flexibility and adapting to constant evolution

☐ Building inclusive environments

☐ Other (please specify)

Capstone Project Information
Capstone Project Information: Engaging Diverse Patients across the Spectrum of R&D

FasterCures has long believed that patient-driven organizations that support biomedical research and product development are key, and often underappreciated, stakeholders in the process. They can bring not only funding but also the perspective and participation of patients in a way that no other stakeholder can.

This does not mean, however, that all patient organizations are well-equipped to engage their communities in meaningful and valuable ways across the spectrum of R&D, nor are they necessarily particularly representative of the people who live with the condition of concern. LeadersLink mentees will identify a capstone project that will help them advance their efforts to ensure that the priorities, preferences, and perspectives of a diverse community of patients are brought to partners, including researchers, industry, regulators, and payers.

Please note: Open-ended response questions have a 1,500-character limit (including spaces).

23. Please describe the background on new therapy/treatment development in your disease state. Where do you see the unmet needs? Why is it important for your organization to increase engagement with diverse patients in R&D?

24. Please describe your organization's experience with patient engagement across the spectrum of R&D activities and specifically how you've worked to engage a diverse group of patients. Be sure to indicate the populations affected by your disease area, specifically populations that have either not historically been engaged and/or are underrepresented in research, and any current initiatives to engage diverse or underrepresented patients, including at what point in the R&D spectrum that engagement is taking place.

25. Please describe the goals you would like to achieve on behalf of your organization in the area of engaging diverse patients in R&D over the course of the LeadersLink Program (from April 2024 to December 2025).

Please upload the following documents in PDF format:

26. Resume/CV (six-page limit)
27. Letter of Reference