



Emerging Leaders and Senior Leaders Institutes

Application Checklist Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) and Senior Leadership Institute (SLI)

✓ Make sure you meet program qualifications.

You must be employed by the state for two (2) years by September 9, 2025. SLI candidates must be in a seasoned director or managerial role, or higher.

✓ Check out the program dates and times.

You must commit to attend all classes and complete all assignments in the program. Classes begin next in the fall of 2025.

- [Access 2025-2026 Emerging Leaders Institute program dates](#)
 - [2025-26 ELI Information](#)
- [Access 2025 Senior Leadership Institute program dates](#)
 - [2025 SLI Information](#)

✓ Follow your agency's internal application process and deadlines.

Your agency has an internal process for being nominated to apply for ELI and SLI programs. Check with your agency HR or training representative for more information.

✓ Be prepared to provide letters of recommendation.

- **For ELI:** Two letters must be included as part of the application:
 - A signed letter from someone in the applicant's chain of leadership (supervisor, manager, director or senior leader), submitted on agency letterhead.
 - A letter from the agency's Human Resource Director that identifies the applicant has met the two years of state service requirement by 9/9/25 and has agency support for their application.
- **For SLI:** A signed letter from the agency's commissioner, deputy or assistant commissioner, written on agency letterhead, must be included as part of the application.
- **NOTE:** Applications cannot be submitted without a recommendation letter(s).



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✓ Complete the following application questions.

- Briefly describe the responsibilities of your current position. Please list any direct reports.
- What qualities are important in future leaders in public service?
- How do you exhibit these qualities in your current role?
- What are your future aspirations or goals as a leader?
- What skills do you hope to develop by participating in the ELI or SLI program?
- Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion (DEAI) are valued at the state. In what ways have you demonstrated a commitment to supporting or furthering DEAI initiatives at work? In what ways have you sought to increase your own self-awareness and growth in these areas?
- How will participating in this program benefit your agency and help further the State of Minnesota goals and strategic initiatives?

✓ Review the Application Tip Sheets

- We gathered advice from several years of selection committee members for you. [Read their advice here.](#)
- If you are applying for ELI, share this tip sheet with the person who will write your reference letter.

Questions? Please contact [ETD's leadership development team](#).