

White House Leadership Development Program

Cohort 12 – Fall 2026 to Fall 2027



Program Overview

Now in its 11th year, the White House Leadership Development Program (WHLDP) is a one-year, high-visibility leadership assignment at the center of government offering a rare opportunity for GS-15 leaders to grow through challenge, contribute to urgent priorities, and expand their strategic network. Fellows return better equipped to lead their agencies in today's complex environment.

Program Components

Placement-Centered Model: WHLDP has streamlined its program to focus more on strategic placements that directly advance Administration priorities. Fellows will be selected for roles that align with center-of-government needs and the fellows' professional expertise. This placement-first model ensures fellows bring critical skills to the center of government – delivering real-world results where they are most needed.

Leadership Development remains a core component, with approximately 15% of the fellowship dedicated to a results-driven leadership program—building the mindset and capabilities to lead effectively, increase efficiency, and achieve impact in today's federal environment.

Why Apply Now



Contribute at the center of federal decision making.



Strengthen your leadership through targeted development.



Return to your agency with enhanced skills, perspective and networks.



Be part of a growing alumni network of enterprise leaders.

Who Should Apply

GS-15 (or equivalent) from participating 24 CFO act agencies who bring:



Mission-driven expertise and a passion for solving government's toughest challenges.



Adaptability and resilience in fast-paced, evolving policy environments.



Learning agility and self-awareness, demonstrating the ability to reflect, adapt, and adjust one's approach to meet the demands of complex and evolving challenges.



Supervisor support to participate 100% from October 2026 – September 2027.

Timeline

(All dates listed are estimates and are subject to change.)

Application Launch:

February 2026

Candidate Application Window:

February – April 2026

Interviews:

June – July 2026

Program Start:

October 2026

Application requirements:

1. Resume (two pages max)
2. Supervisor approval
3. Answers to open-ended questions on enterprise leadership potential