



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