

LEADERSHIP BERKS

United Way of Berks County

MISSION

Train and develop individuals to serve in nonprofit leadership roles within Berks County.

BUILDING CAPACITY & IMPACT

The benefits of Leadership Berks are a win-win-win.

Individuals:

- Increase their knowledge around community assets and needs.
- Expand leadership and project management skills.

Employers:

- Retain higher-skilled employees possessing a greater ability to lead, problem-solve and build teams effectively within the workplace.

Local nonprofits:

- Have access to a larger pool of individuals representing a broad range of experiences to serve in community leadership roles.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Two-day mandatory opening retreat September 18-19, 2025
- Participants meet one day a month, from October 2025 – May 2026
- Program Graduation: June 2026
- Classroom and Panel Instruction builds knowledge about community assets and challenges, nonprofits' collective impact in Berks, nonprofit operations and governance, and servant leadership essentials
- Curriculum features interactive and team-building experiences
- Team-based service project with local nonprofits
- Placement on nonprofit board or committee

PROGRAM COMMITMENT TIME & TUITION

Program Time Commitment

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| • Class & Relationship Building | 75 Hours |
| • Service Project | 35 Hours |
| • Volunteer Leadership Placement | 10 Hours |

Tuition 2025-26 Program

- \$3,000
- A limited number of partial scholarships are available for nonprofits or self-supported individuals.

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FAST FACTS

Leadership Berks - Making an Impact

Since late 2020, United Way of Berks County has managed Leadership Berks resulting in 81 graduates serving with local nonprofit organizations.

In 2025, 37 participants will join them as they graduate in June and continue their leadership journeys by volunteering on boards and committees locally.

- **Originally founded in 1985** through a partnership of Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce and Industry, United Labor Council, Junior League and United Way.
- **Program is highly valued by employers**, recognizing the increased skills and experiences gained by graduates.
- **Curriculum** delivered by business and community leaders, along with content expert instructors.
- **Experiential program** expanding personal, professional and community leadership skills and opportunities.



Erin Beebe, MBA,
LCSW, CCM
Tower Health Medical
Group
2023-2024 Graduate

"Leadership Berks is a transformative and engaging program that challenged me in the most rewarding ways. Throughout the program, I experienced professional growth and profound personal development while building lasting, meaningful relationships. This opportunity deepened my understanding of community service and fostered self-reflection and growth."