



The NASW Arkansas Leadership Academy is pleased to accept applications for the 2017-2018 academy from individuals who have demonstrated a capacity for leadership and who have the potential to make a substantial positive impact on the future of the field of social work.

The purpose of the NASW Arkansas leadership program is to identify and develop leaders who will act as positive change agents for the field of social work and their respective agencies. The NASW Arkansas Leadership Academy supports the vision of NASW-AR by providing quality programs and experiences that will impact the state of Arkansas and empower the profession through education, networking, and advocacy. Participants have an opportunity to interact with colleagues and professionals from across the state to gain a better understanding of their personal leadership styles, build relationships, understand the issues facing leaders in social work, and gain the skills necessary to create positive change. **Participants will earn 37 CEUs for full participation and receive 50% annual conference registration*.**

The NASW Arkansas leadership program seeks to:

- Foster an environment where participants can build relationships and work across agency boundaries.
- Offer an opportunity for participants to identify problems and generate solutions for critical issues facing social work.
- Provide participants with the tools needed to develop and enhance their leadership skills, specifically in the areas of positive communication, strategic planning and problem solving, and collaboration.
- Develop leaders who can advocate for themselves, the profession, and the clients and communities they serve.

Criteria for Application

- Two or more years of professional work or relevant life experience.
- Professed interest in and commitment to leadership.
- Willingness to devote time and resources to the NASW Arkansas Leadership Academy.
- Demonstration of leadership skills.
- Demonstration of strong interpersonal skills and the ability to build relationships.
- Commitment of applicant's supervisor for the applicant to participate in the Academy.
- Completion of interview if asked

Program Information

Cost

Tuition for this yearlong program is \$500 for NASW-AR members/\$600 for non-members. Academy fellows will pay for their lodging and travel to and from the training sessions, most of which take place

NASW Arkansas Leadership Academy - *Unleashing the Spirit of Leadership in You*

in Little Rock, Arkansas. Leadership fellows who attend and volunteer to work at the annual conference will receive a 50% discount on the full conference registration. *

Payment arrangements are available. Participants may divide cost into 4 payments. The first payment is due in June after acceptance to the program; with payments to follow in July, August and September.

Time Commitment

Participation in the academy requires a significant time commitment. The program requires an introductory meeting, education sessions, a team project, the development of a personal leadership plan, and a final presentation. **100% participation in all of these areas is required to graduate from the academy.**

Education Sessions:

Date	Topic
June 10, 2017	Orientation & Team Building/Review of Personality Assessment/Project Discussion
July 14 – 15, 2017	Projection Selection, Program Development & Public Speaking, and Transformational Leadership
August 4-5, 2017	Present Project Selection to NASW AR Board of Directors
October 13-14, 2017	Emotional Intelligence/Positive Communication
December 8-9, 2017	Strategic Planning/Grant Writing
February 9-10, 2018	Supervising/Coaching & Mentoring/Political Advocacy
March 2018 (<i>date TBA; option to meet remotely</i>)	Group project work
March - April 2018	Graduation and Presentation at Annual Conference

Each educational retreat will have theoretical and practical application of the topic and time for working on the team project and personal leadership plans.

Upon acceptance into the Academy, the participants and agencies will sign a *Memorandum of Agreement* to ensure full commitment to the Academy’s requirements.

Team Project

The class will work as a team to identify a problem related to social work and use the information gained in the academy to propose a solution to the problem. This project will be presented at the annual conference in April 2017. Time will be given during each meeting to work on the project; however, outside work may be required in order to complete the project.

Personal Leadership Plan

One of the many benefits of this Academy is the development of a personal leadership plan. This plan will allow you to reflect on all that you are learning in the program and how you can use this information to benefit your agency. The plan will include action items for each topic area along with personal goals for you to grow in your leadership.

Application Packet 2017-2018

Applications are due by 5:00pm on **May 5, 2017**. Please send your completed application to:

Holly Barron
hbarron.naswar@socialworkers.org
1123 S. University Ave., #1010
Little Rock, AR 72204

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Are you an NASW member? • No • Yes Member Number: _____

Credentials: BSW MSW Other _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Cell # _____ Office # _____ Fax: _____

Employer: _____

Employer Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor Name: _____

Director Name: _____

Please submit a resume that includes involvement in professional, business, or community organizations or other volunteer work.

Please answer the questions below (type your responses to the statements and questions below and attach to your application).

1. What are your leadership strengths and what areas would you like to improve?
2. What are your communication strengths and what areas would you like to improve?

3. What do you hope to learn by attending the NASW AR Leadership Academy and how will you use this knowledge to improve the profession of Social Work in our state?

4. One of the major requirements of the academy is the completion of a personal leadership plan where you will document how you are going to use the knowledge gained in the academy in your agency. Additionally, your director and/or supervisor's involvement is critical to your accountability and the implementation of this knowledge into your agency. Keeping this in mind, answer the following questions.

A. What are the key issues facing your agency and how do you see your participation in the NASW Arkansas Leadership Academy addressing those issues?

B. How can your supervisor ensure your success?

Make sure to also attach the signed supervisor's form to your application.