

Leadership Development Certificate Workshop

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The Sandra Hoskins Legacy Foundation, Inc



Advancing Leadership Through the BOLD Framework

The AOTA Leadership Development Certificate Workshop (LDCW) is a leadership training initiative designed to prepare occupational therapy practitioners for leadership roles within the profession and the association. The workshop curriculum is guided by the BOLD Framework: Belonging, Opportunities, Leadership, and Development for the Future, ensuring that participants gain the skills, networks, and support necessary to grow as leaders while contributing meaningfully to the occupational therapy profession.

Through this framework, LDCW cultivates inclusive engagement, creates pathways for professional advancement, empowers emerging leaders, and supports ongoing personal and professional development.

Purpose

Aligned with the BOLD Framework, the LDCW aims to:

- ▶ **Belonging:** Foster an inclusive and collaborative professional environment where emerging leaders feel welcomed, valued, and connected to the occupational therapy community.
- ▶ **Opportunities:** Provide meaningful experiences that connect participants with professional networks, mentorship, and leadership pathways within the profession.
- ▶ **Leadership:** Strengthen participants' ability to lead within professional organizations, healthcare systems, and practice settings.
- ▶ **Development:** Equip practitioners with tools, knowledge, and guidance to support both personal and professional growth throughout their leadership journey.

Full Commitment: 9 month

At- A- Glance

- ▶ **1.5 day** - The Workshop is a 1.5-day event hosted at AOTA's National Headquarters in Bethesda, MD in fall 2026 focusing on critical leadership competencies.
- ▶ **9 months** - Participants are paired with experienced leaders who provide guidance, professional insight, and support for leadership development over a 9-month period.
- ▶ **Cohort** - 25 eligible practitioners will be selected.

Application Window: May 26 (12 p.m., ET) – June 25, 2026 (12 p.m., ET)

Structure and Format

Workshop

The Workshop is a 1.5-day event hosted at AOTA's National Headquarters in Bethesda, MD in fall 2026. The Workshop curriculum focuses on introducing critical leadership competencies, including:

- ▶ Leadership styles and self-assessment
- ▶ Strategic thinking and decision-making
- ▶ Advocacy and policy in healthcare
- ▶ Communication and conflict management
- ▶ Belonging and equitable access in leadership
- ▶ Professional ethics and accountability
- ▶ Inclusive community building

Mentorship

Participants are paired with experienced leaders who provide guidance, professional insight, and support for leadership development over a 9-month period. Mentors will be recruited from AOTA leadership bodies. Regular mentor–mentee meetings strengthen professional relationships and reinforce the development pillar of the BOLD framework.

Networking & Professional Engagement

Participants engage with the broader professional community through:

- ▶ Opportunities to connect with leadership committees or professional groups
- ▶ Service in the mentee role of key association governance groups



Intended Outcomes for Selected Participants

Program success is evaluated through:

- ▶ Leadership competency assessments
- ▶ Mentor feedback
- ▶ Participant reflection and growth reports

Expected outcomes include:

- ▶ Increased leadership readiness
- ▶ Expanded professional networks
- ▶ Greater engagement in professional initiatives
- ▶ Development of future leaders who will advance the profession through the BOLD framework principles.

These deliverables reinforce the program's commitment to belonging, opportunity, leadership, and ongoing development.

Applying to the AOTA Leadership Development Certificate Workshop

Who is eligible for the Leadership Development Certificate Workshop?

Participants are selected based on demonstrated leadership potential and commitment to professional growth. Eligibility criteria include:

- ▶ Licensed Occupational therapist (OT) or occupational therapy assistant (OTA)
- ▶ Members in good standing with AOTA and state associations
- ▶ Demonstrated interest in leadership and professional engagement
- ▶ Commitment to completing all program activities

Application materials should include:

- ▶ **Current résumé or CV:** Submit a résumé or CV that highlights your leadership experiences.
- ▶ **Personal statement:** Describing leadership goals and alignment with the BOLD framework.
- ▶ **Letter of recommendation:** One recommendation letter from supervisor or manager, mentor, or senior colleague.
- ▶ **Response to essay question:** 250-400 words

How do I apply?

All application materials must be submitted by **12 pm, ET on Thursday, June 25, 2026.**

Applications will be reviewed by the AOTA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, Access, and Belonging (DEIJAB) Committee.

Financial Support of Participants

Support for LCDW participants is made possible by the generous support of The Sandra Hoskins Legacy Foundation, Inc, and will cover the in-person workshop. All materials and resources developed for and used in this program, travel, lodging, and per diem costs will be covered.

1

Access the online application at
<https://aota.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/219/home>

2

Begin new submission to start the LDCW application and upload requested documents.

3

Submit complete application before timed deadline.

Scan QR Code



Questions?

Please email dei@aota.org with any questions.





American
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