Initiative for Leadership Enhancement and Development  
Building Leadership for Public Health  

WHAT: Initiative for Leadership Enhancement and Development (I LEAD)  
The Initiative for Leadership Enhancement and Development (I LEAD) is CDC’s systematic, coordinated  
approach to building leadership for public health. This initiative offers a customized curriculum of  
developmental courses and offerings such as job rotations, mentoring, action learning projects, and career  
coaching. Through I LEAD, CDC employees can access Leadership Development Maps, which recommend  
progression through leadership activities based on the employees’ current levels of responsibility and  
involvement in leadership.  

WHO: Current and Future CDC Leaders  
Whether you are interested in a leadership role or currently leading teams, projects or organizations, I LEAD  
is designed to offer customized courses and offerings within these stages of leadership.  
I: Getting Ready for Leadership  
Employees not currently serving in supervisory roles but have high potential for and interest in developing  
leadership skills  
II: Leading and Managing People and Teams  
Team leaders, first-line supervisors, and those performing team leader functions  
III: Leading and Managing People and Programs  
Managers and second-level supervisors generally at the GS-14 or CC-06 level and above, such as program  
managers at the division level, management officials, division directors, and deputy directors  
IV: Leading Organizations  
Senior executive leaders such as members of the Executive Leadership Board, Management Council,  
Center Leadership Council, Division Directors Council Steering Committee, and those currently responsible  
for leading the agency's strategic programs, policies, and services  

HOW: Through a Strong Curriculum and Support from Senior Leaders  
Developed through extensive research inside and outside CDC, the I LEAD curriculum combines courses  
and experiential learning activities to help current and future leaders build the skills and competencies they  
need to be effective in leadership and management roles. The CDC Office of the Director supports I LEAD  
as a framework for addressing organizational leadership challenges, fostering individual development, and  
demonstrating CDC’s commitment to leadership development at all levels.  

WHY: To Build Better Public Health Leaders for Our Agency and Mission  
CDC must remain at the forefront of public health leadership to accomplish its mission of improving people’s  
health and safety. I LEAD meets this imperative through a coordinated approach to building public health  
leaders based on leadership competencies critical to achieving CDC’s national and global health goals.  

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