



2025 Path to Membership

*WEDC membership is by **invitation only**. The steps below outline the path to membership for potential candidates and their Sponsors and Co-Sponsors.*

We look forward to getting to know you!

1. **Enlist a Sponsor & Co-Sponsor** Your Sponsor and Co-Sponsor (S/CS) will nominate you for membership, submit a recommendation declaring you eligible for membership and invite you to apply, provide guidance through the application process, and ultimately serve as your mentor during your charter year should you become inducted into membership to foster involvement and engagement.
2. **Meet the Attendance Requirements** Attendance at a minimum number of WEDC Leadership Development Meetings is required before candidates may apply. This is to ensure that you get to know the Membership and find that this is an organization that fits your needs. You must supply this information in your application.

An applicant must attend at least THREE leadership development meetings in the previous 12 months (September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025)

Meet the Eligibility Requirements Your S/CS can help you understand the eligibility requirements. The Membership Committee should be consulted with any questions. **Candidates must be a:**

- **Business owner/entrepreneur** – the candidate must have been working full time in her business for at least one year and has demonstrated leadership experience. The business must have a business license. Multi-level Marketing (MLM) experience will be considered only on a case-by-case basis.
- **Business executive or mid-level manager** with supervisory and/or other significant responsibilities.
- **Degreed or licensed professional** – Examples would be a doctor, lawyer, or a CPA.
- The Board will consider **exceptional candidates** who do not fall into another category, for example, women serving in public office.
- Retired woman who previously belonged to one of the above categories.
- A candidate that has successfully completed the **WEDC Milestones Program**. Program member criteria and description is attached as "Addendum 2".

Questions regarding eligibility can be directed to the Membership Committee at membership@wedchsv.org

3. **Review the WEDC Website** The website contains information about the Mission, Vision and Purpose of the organization and details about our history and work in the community. It will provide candidates with an overview of the organization and help you to determine alignment with the WEDC as a whole.
4. **Sponsorship Declaration** S/CS submit the sponsorship declaration form to the membership committee anytime during the Application Period (March 1-August 15). In doing so, the S/CS invites the potential member to apply. The S/CS verifies the potential member's eligibility and alignment with WEDC's values. They complete an official Sponsorship Declaration Form, found on the WEDC member website, which includes a written recommendation of why the potential member will be a good fit for the organization.
5. **Membership Application** Submission of a completed and verified Sponsorship Declaration will trigger the invitation to the potential member to apply for membership. An invitation email with the official application will be sent. Completed applications and the application fee are due **no later than** August 31 but submissions are encouraged as soon as attendance requirements are met during the March 1 – August 31 Application Period.
6. **Approval Period** The Membership Committee, membership and the WEDC Board of Directors review and approve all applications during September and October. S/CS will present their applicants to the Board during this time. (Applicants do not attend.)
7. **Notification/Welcome/Training/Induction** Candidates will be notified of acceptance via email (cc S/CS) on October 11, 2024. Concurrently, S/CS will call with personal congratulations. New members will attend the mandatory New Member Orientation with S/CS on October 15, 2-4 p.m. A social will follow from 4-5 p.m (tentatively). New members will be officially inducted at the October 16 full member dinner meeting in the evening.
8. **Charter Year** The Charter Year is the first year of a new member's membership in WEDC and includes expected activities and connections to foster engagement in the organization. The S/CS support and participate in expected activities this charter year and ensure that the new member meets the following minimum requirements:
 - Attend a minimum of four and ideally all 12 leadership development meetings
 - Select and participate in a committee
 - Attend a minimum of one connecting event
 - Attend a minimum of one board meeting
 - Participate in quarterly membership committee activities for S/CS and your fellow new members.
 - Meet regularly with your S/CS throughout the year outside of the WEDC activities to touch base and connect.

Questions? Contact the Membership Committee at
membership@wedchsv.org!