



DEFENSE CIVILIAN EMERGING LEADER PROGRAM Points of Contact/Suspense Date for Applications & Proposed Training Schedule

*Component/Agency Representatives

Air Force –

Contact your Command Training Representative to apply.

Army –

Contact your Command Training Representative to apply.

Defense Intelligence and Security Enterprises –

sharon.m.mcmahon4.civ@mail.mil

OSD, Defense Agencies and Field Activities

(DAFA) – [DCELP Inbox](#)

Navy/USMC –

Contact your Command Training Representative to apply.

Outside Federal Agencies –

Contact your agency Training Coordinator to apply.

** Prospective applicants must use these systems/points of contact to apply for DCELP. Should you have difficulty using the suggested component system, please contact your local training office for assistance.*

All DCELP applications must first be vetted through the respective Components and organizations: Air Force, Army, Defense Intelligence and Security Enterprises, OSD, Defense Agencies and Field Activities, Department of Navy, and participating outside Federal interagencies (i.e., Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, and Department of State).

Applications for the first cohort – consisting of personnel from the Acquisition, Financial Management, and Human Resources functional communities – will be reviewed at the Component level and final selections will be made at the OSD Functional Community Manager level. Applications for the second cohort – consisting of personnel from all career fields and interagency partners – will be reviewed and selections will be made at the Component/interagency level prior to submission to the DCELP staff.

Suspense Dates for Applications

Applications from OSD Functional Community Managers, Component Representatives (Army, Navy/USMC, Air Force, and the Defense Intelligence and Security Enterprises), and participating outside Federal interagencies must be submitted to the DCPAS Talent Development Directorate NLT **September 8, 2025.**

Applications from Training Coordinators for the OSD, Defense Agencies and Field Activities must be submitted through the DCPAS Talent Development Directorate and are due NLT **July 7, 2025.**

Please Note: As each Component/organization has additional application requirements, all interested applicants should contact their Components Representatives or Training Coordinators for specific instructions *prior to starting the application process*. **Unfortunately, DCELP cannot accept individual applications that do not have the full endorsement of the applicant's Component Representative or Training Coordinator.**

Proposed Training Schedule

DCELP operates using a four-team configuration with up to 37 participants assigned to each team. The first cohort (March to May 2026) will include up to 144 participants from the Acquisition, Financial Management, and Human Resources functional communities. The second cohort (June to August 2026) will include up to 146 participants from all functional communities and participating outside Federal interagencies. Each Seminar 1 - 4, are one week-long during the cohort. A seminar schedule will be provided to the OSD Functional Community Managers, Component Representatives, OSD, Defense Agencies and Field Activity Training Coordinators, Federal interagency Training Coordinators, and participants when available.