



**CENTER FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF  
LEADERSHIP  
SKILLS**

A PROGRAM OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS SOUTHERN OFFICE

# 2026

**OCTOBER 4-8**  
**SOUTH ALABAMA**

NOW ACCEPTING  
APPLICATIONS FOR THE  
**CLASS OF 2026**

FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED EXECUTIVE,  
LEGISLATIVE, AND JUDICIAL STATE OFFICIALS

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**FULL SCHOLARSHIPS** ARE AWARDED TO SELECTED  
APPLICANTS, COVERING THE COST OF TUITION,  
TRAVEL, LODGING, AND MEALS.



**SOUTH**



**THE CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS® (CAL S)** program is for current elected or appointed members of state legislative, judicial, and executive branches primarily in the early-to-mid stages of their government careers. The five-day workshop event takes selected CAL S scholars through activities and instruction focusing on the program’s four central components—**communication, conflict resolution, consensus building, and critical decision making. It’s a must-do for any state professional looking to reinforce and refine these crucial skills.**

### WHY CAL S?

CAL S embodies CSG South’s mission of **championing excellence in state government and providing nonpartisan forums for state officials who might rarely cross paths to share ideas.** In addition to developing and enhancing leadership skills, the program provides participants a unique opportunity to foster connections, engage in conversations, and take part in sessions designed to explore individual boundaries and perceptions.

### A TIME TO LEARN FROM OTHERS

CAL S is organized by The Council of State Governments Southern Office, a nonpartisan organization promoting intergovernmental cooperation among its **15 member states.** In that spirit, the program brings together Southern state officials from all three branches of government in a nonpartisan, collegial environment. To foster connections among classmates, the class size is capped at **30 participants.**

### A DEEP DIVE WITHOUT DISTRACTIONS

Participants will be welcomed in the beautiful state of Alabama, where they can engage in sessions amidst a vibrant waterfront, historic architecture, and distinct Gulf Coast culture.



**PLEASE NOTE:** Because of the nature of the program and the importance of interaction among classmates, **participating state officials must commit to attend the program in its entirety.** Attendance at all CAL S events is limited to selected state officials. **Spouses, guests, and children are not permitted to attend or accompany participants to the program.**

### AN EXCLUSIVE FOUR-DAY PROGRAM WITH A FULL AGENDA

	SUNDAY   10/4	MONDAY   10/5	TUESDAY   10/6	WEDNESDAY   10/7
<b>MORNING</b>	ARRIVAL IN ALABAMA	LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING	LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING	LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING
<b>AFTERNOON</b>	TRAVEL TO HOTEL	LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING	LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING	LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING
<b>EVENING</b>	ACTIVITIES, DINNER, NETWORKING	ACTIVITIES, DINNER, NETWORKING	ACTIVITIES, DINNER, NETWORKING	CLOSING KEYNOTE, GRADUATION
	<b>THURSDAY   10/8</b>	DAY RESERVED FOR RETURN TRAVEL		



**HOW TO APPLY** *Only current elected or appointed state officials will be considered for the 2026 CALS program. CANDIDATES MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING BY JULY 24, 2026:*

- An online application form available at [csgsouth.org/leadership-development/cals](https://csgsouth.org/leadership-development/cals)
- A cover letter, addressed to CALS Selection Committee, stating the reasons you are interested in applying to CALS
- Two letters of recommendation from state government colleagues or CALS alumni
- A written biographical summary, **limited to 150 words or fewer**
- Answers to 5 questions, limited to 150 words or fewer per question
- Current resume
- Current professional headshot

**Selection Criteria**

Successful applicants must demonstrate:

- **Motivation** for personal and professional growth
- **Dedication** to public service
- **Commitment** to improving processes in their governmental branch
- **Desire** to foster a culture of diversity and excellence

**APPLY BY JULY 24, 2026**  
**SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION ONLINE**  
[csgsouth.org/leadership-development/cals](https://csgsouth.org/leadership-development/cals)  
**OR SCAN THIS CODE** →



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Visit [csgsouth.org/leadership-development/cals](https://csgsouth.org/leadership-development/cals) to learn more about the program and its history and to view the online application. For specific inquiries, please call **(404) 633-1866** or email [cals@csg.org](mailto:cals@csg.org).

**APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER REGARDING THE STATUS OF THEIR APPLICATION.**

**The Council of  
State Governments  
Southern Office**  
1946 Clairmont Road  
Decatur, Georgia 30033

 [csgsouth.org](https://csgsouth.org)

 404.633.1866

 [csgsouth@csg.org](mailto:csgsouth@csg.org)

 @CSGSouth

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**APPLY NOW**  
**TO BECOME A CALS SCHOLAR**  
**VISIT CSGSOUTH.ORG OR SCAN THIS CODE**

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS UNTIL

**JULY 24, 2026**

Full **scholarships** are awarded to selected applicants, covering the cost of tuition, travel, lodging, and meals.



**Center for the Advancement  
of Leadership Skills**

A PROGRAM OF CSG SOUTH

**OCTOBER 4 - 8**

**SOUTH ALABAMA**



**SOUTH**

**REGIONAL FOCUS, NATIONAL SCOPE**

ALABAMA • ARKANSAS • FLORIDA • GEORGIA • KENTUCKY • LOUISIANA • MISSISSIPPI • MISSOURI  
NORTH CAROLINA • OKLAHOMA • SOUTH CAROLINA • TENNESSEE • TEXAS • VIRGINIA • WEST VIRGINIA

**ESTABLISHED IN 1947, THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS SOUTHERN OFFICE (CSG SOUTH)** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that exists to support members in all three branches of state government. At CSG South we act as an extension of state government, fostering the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials and staff shape public policy and create problem-solving partnerships.

The mission of CSG South is to promote and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation among its 15 member states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Predominantly, this is achieved through the ongoing work of CSG South's seven standing committees and supporting groups.

Legislative leadership, members, and staff depend on CSG South to identify and analyze solutions for the most prevalent and unique policy issues facing Southern state governments. We facilitate outreach in state capitols, leadership development, staff exchange programs, domestic and international policy delegations, and other efforts to support state policymakers and legislative staff in their work to build stronger, more successful states.

**The Southern Legislative Conference (SLC)** is the largest regional gathering of legislative members and staff. SLC boasts an array of well-established programs—focusing on both existing and emerging state government innovations and solutions—providing policymakers and staff diverse opportunities to interact with policy experts and share their knowledge with colleagues.