

# 2025 Awards of EXCELLENCE Criteria

ripples of  
IMPACT

In the vast ocean of aging services, every act of kindness, innovation, and leadership creates a ripple. These ripples, though often unseen, have the power to transform lives and shape the future of care for our seniors.

LeadingAge Washington invites you to recognize those who create the most impactful waves. The 2025 Awards of Excellence nominations will be accepted until **May 1, 2025**.

## Award of Honor

LeadingAge Washington's Award of Honor is our highest accolade, bestowed upon one exceptional individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in shaping the future of Aging Services while upholding our core values. This prestigious award recognizes a nominee who has:

- Exhibited visionary leadership, exemplary service, and an unwavering commitment to quality, advancing both the association and the field of aging services.
- Achieved significant, long-term goals over an extended period.
- Demonstrated a track record of consistent, cumulative accomplishments.
- Made impactful contributions worthy of state and national recognition.

## Excellence in Nurse Leadership Award

The Excellence in Nurse Leadership Award recognizes a Director of Nursing or an Assistant Director of Nursing who creates a supportive and engaged workplace environment by displaying excellent leadership skills while managing nursing and frontline staff. Within this award category, the nominee:

- Demonstrates creative and innovative approaches to leadership in nursing.
- Values and respects all levels of professional caregivers, and models and promotes this attitude among peers.
- Facilitates meaningful collaboration among interdisciplinary team members.
- Creates or implements practices at the organization to improve the workplace environment and support nursing and frontline staff.
- Is instrumental in improving the recruitment and retention of the nursing and frontline staff.
- Assists caregivers in understanding their relationship to the organization's mission and goals.

## Excellence in Leadership Award

Recognizes individuals or governing boards that demonstrate excellence in leadership or governance. The nominee demonstrates a strong commitment to the LeadingAge ideals: Quality & Innovation, Integrity & Transparency; Shared Learning & Fellowship; Inclusion, Diversity & Equity; and Compassion & Community. The nominee for this award:

- Builds high-performing teams and leaders, fostering responsible stewardship and financial integrity while delivering top-notch services.
- Drives growth through understanding the aging services landscape and adapting to change.
- Demonstrates exceptional leadership, making significant contributions to client well-being

## Excellence in the Workplace Award

Recognizes organizations that demonstrate effectiveness in fostering and advancing a healthy workplace culture and an environment that promotes the recruitment, retention, and development of staff. The nominee for this award:

- Demonstrates, in policy and practice, that investments in the staff and workplace environment are critical to the delivery of quality care and services.
- Encourages innovation in workforce development, policies and practices.
- Ensures that all levels of staff obtain training.
- Supports strong organizational values and promotes diversity in the workforce.

## Excellence in Caregiving Award

Recognizes an individual who serves as a model of commitment to compassionate direct care. The nominee for this award:

- Maintains a steadfast commitment that is displayed through acts such as dependability, length of service, hospitality, and dedication to professional development.
- Takes initiative to enhance and enrich the lives of aging individuals within a member provider's organization or within the local community.
- Provides exceptional service to residents or the older adult population within the community.

## Cultural Diversity Award

Recognizes an individual or organization that has effected positive change through a significant commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion. The nominee:

- Demonstrates significant achievement in cultural diversity and inclusion with respect to residents, staff and in developing future leaders.
- Celebrates cultural diversity in a noteworthy and innovative manner.
- Initiates positive change within the organization to advance the interests of a diverse population.

## Outstanding Advocacy Award

Recognizes an individual or organization for advocating for aging services at the local, state, or national level. The nominee for this award:

- Advocates and actively encourages others to advocate on aging services issues with local, state or national policy makers and or media.
- Organizes other people or groups to advocate for positive change.
- Demonstrates dedication to the not-for-profit and mission-driven philosophy.

## Innovation in Care & Services Award

Recognizes organizations for programs and services that are models of innovation and excellence and that contribute significantly to the quality of life of the individuals served. The program of care or service:

- Emphasizes quality of life for the individuals served or significantly improves the aging-services organization's operations.
- Provides proven benefits to the residents, clients or organization.
- Demonstrates potential for application to the needs of other aging services organizations.
- Has been in actual operation for two or more years (not including planning time).

## Community Service Award

Recognizes the achievement of a LeadingAge member organization that has demonstrated exceptional social accountability. It honors a commitment by volunteers, leadership, youth and/or staff to meeting community needs as part of the organization's overall mission and planning. The nominee's program:

- Demonstrates significant and quantifiable community benefit.
- Critically examines the organization's capabilities, contributions and interactions in assessing community needs.
- Utilizes open communication and is perceived by others as providing essential public services.
- Is replicable by other organizations of similar type.

## Outstanding Mentor Award

Recognizes an individual who has displayed outstanding abilities in one-on-one teaching, motivating, challenging and developing future leaders in the field of aging services. An individual who is a LeadingAge member, or is associated with a member, is eligible for this award. The individual(s) or organization nominating the mentor must have close knowledge of the nominee's accomplishments as a mentor. The nomination submission:

- Reflects that the mentor has engaged his or her protégé(s) and fostered their leadership development within the field of aging services.
- Highlights the extent of the nominee's impact as a mentor, demonstrated best by testimonials from one or more protégés.
- Indicates accomplishments of the protégé(s) that have been influenced by the mentor.

**Submit your nominations today!**

**[https://form.jotform.com/LeadingAgeWA/2025\\_Awards](https://form.jotform.com/LeadingAgeWA/2025_Awards)**

**Submission Deadline is Thursday, May 1st.**

If you have any questions, please email Cassi at [CMeritt@LeadingAgeWA.org](mailto:CMeritt@LeadingAgeWA.org)

**2025**

**Annual Conference  
& EXPO JUNE 23-25  
Awards Ceremony**

**LeadingAge®**  
Washington