

2025 LeadingAge Massachusetts

Annual Achievement Award Nominations Overview

LeadingAge Massachusetts member organizations are invited to submit nominations for the 2025 LeadingAge Massachusetts Achievement Awards. These awards publicly acknowledge the accomplishments and contributions of those who exemplify and advance the missions of LeadingAge Massachusetts's member organizations. These awards highlight examples of the commitment, innovation, leadership, and excellence within the LeadingAge Massachusetts community. Awards will be presented at the 71st Annual Meeting on October 15, 2025.

Eligibility

Achievement Awards are open to current LeadingAge MA provider member organizations, their staff, volunteers, Board members, residents or consumers. We encourage our members to submit nominations that showcase the remarkable achievements, innovative practices, and positive impacts made by individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Selection and Notification

The LeadingAge MA Award & Recognition Committee will review all nominations and select award recipients. All individuals that submit nominations will be notified of award decisions in mid-September.

The Committee reserves the right to make award decisions at its discretion, including the option to recognize multiple recipients within a single category, to withhold an award in any category, or to reassign a nomination to a different category if deemed more appropriate.

Nomination Process

1. Respond to the applicable writing prompts in a typed document and save that document as a .PDF file.
2. Compile any supporting documentation (e.g. program description, photos, or letters of support) as a PDF. If you are submitting a video or audio component, it must be posted to a shared site (such as your own website or YouTube) and emailed to Sarah Lacasse at SLacasse@leadingagemma.org.
3. Complete the online nomination form at www.leadingagemma.org/awards23 and upload your completed nomination as a PDF along with any supporting materials.

Please note: Once you start your application you will not be able to save your progress. We recommend you prepare all materials before starting the online process.

Submission Deadline

Friday, September 5, 2025

Award Categories

Individual Awards:

1. The Emerging Leader Award*
2. The Heart and Hands Award
3. The Volunteer of The Year Award

Organizational Award:

4. The Innovation & Impact Award

*The recipient of the 2025 Emerging Leader Award will receive a scholarship to a future LeadingAge National Annual Meeting and Expo which includes complimentary registration and up to \$1,500 for travel and accommodation expenses.

Tips on Writing Your Nomination

- Be clear and specific. Don't assume the Awards Committee members will understand a project or achievement. Be specific about what the nominee(s) did and how it connects back to the award criteria. Explain technical details clearly.
- Consider a collaborative, group-written nomination. If you find yourself shying away from a solo nomination, invite a colleague or two to help.

Achievement Award Descriptions and Questions

1. Emerging Leader Award

This award is given to an employee at any level in a LeadingAge Massachusetts member organization who has assumed additional leadership responsibilities in the past five years and has worked to build a shared vision, developed robust relationships, and has excellent organizational capability.

Eligible Nominees: Employees at any LeadingAge MA Member Organization

To nominate someone for this award, please respond to the following:

- Describe the individual you are nominating and why you are nominating them.
- Please detail additional leadership responsibilities this person has taken on in the past few years.
- In what ways has this person excelled in these additional responsibilities?
- How has this person influenced individuals, processes, or strategic direction for your organization?

2. Heart and Hands Award

This award is given to an individual employee or group of employees who demonstrate exceptional relationships with a resident(s) or client(s); these relationships should provide special enrichment and increased quality of life through efforts beyond those normally considered within the scope of this person's job description.

Eligible Nominees: Employees at any LeadingAge MA Member Organization

To nominate someone for this award, please respond to the following:

- Describe the individual or group you are nominating and why you are nominating them.
- How long has the nominee been with your organization?
- How has this individual or group demonstrated exceptional relationship(s) with a resident(s) or client(s)?
- In what ways did they go beyond their job description? Please provide specific examples.

3. Volunteer of the Year Award

This award honors a volunteer (or group of volunteers) who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to enhance the quality of life for older adults and their communities.

Eligible Nominees: Volunteers (including Board Members) at any LeadingAge MA Member Organization

To nominate someone for this award, please respond to the following:

- Please share a story that illustrates the nominee's exceptional volunteerism.
- Please include examples of specific actions that go above and beyond to enhance or enrich the quality of life for older adults.
- Please include one letter of support from the executive director, site manager, or CEO of the community.
- Please include up to three letters of support from team members, residents, families or community members (minimum one; up to three).

4. Innovation & Impact Award

This award honors a LeadingAge Massachusetts provider member organization that has implemented an innovative program, practice, or initiative with the power to transform aging services. Innovation may span areas such as care delivery, workforce development, technology, programming, customer experience, organizational culture, or emerging trends. The award

recognizes efforts that not only break new ground but also contribute meaningfully to service excellence and sector advancement.

Eligible Nominees: Any LeadingAge MA Provider Member Organization

To nominate someone for this award, please respond to the following:

- Executive Summary – please describe the innovative program, initiative, or approach. What challenge or opportunity inspired its development? What are its specific goals and intended outcomes?
- Distinctiveness – explain how this initiative represents a new application or unique approach within the field of aging services or workplace culture.
- Impact – describe the outcomes or benefits this innovation has had for residents, staff, or the broader community. Include inclusive practices that promote belonging, equity, or well-being where applicable.
- Evaluation – if available, please describe how you will measure or have measured the progress, impact, or success of this innovation.
- Replicability – describe how this innovation can be replicated by other providers.