

2026 LeadingAge Massachusetts Annual Achievement Award Nominations Overview

LeadingAge Massachusetts member organizations are invited to submit nominations for the 2026 LeadingAge Massachusetts Achievement Awards. These awards publicly acknowledge the accomplishments and contributions of those who exemplify and advance the missions of LeadingAge Massachusetts member organizations.

These awards highlight examples of the commitment, innovation, leadership, service, and excellence within the LeadingAge Massachusetts community. Awards will be presented at the 2026 LeadingAge Massachusetts Annual Meeting.

Selection and Notification

The LeadingAge Massachusetts Award & Recognition Committee will review all nominations and select award recipients. Nominations may be submitted by member organizations, and the Association may also identify individuals or organizations for award consideration.

All individuals who submit nominations will be notified of award decisions in advance of the Annual Meeting.

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, such as program descriptions, 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 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 4, 2026

Award Categories

Individual Awards

1. Emerging Leader Award
2. Heart and Hands Award
3. Volunteer of the Year Award
4. Barbara A. Doyle Memorial Distinguished Service Award

Organizational Award

5. Innovation & Impact Award

The recipient of the 2026 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.
- Share stories and examples. Strong nominations often include specific moments, outcomes, relationships, or contributions that help the Committee understand the nominee's impact.

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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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.

4. Barbara A. Doyle Memorial Distinguished Service Award

The Barbara A. Doyle Memorial Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual whose sustained leadership, service, and commitment have made an extraordinary and lasting contribution to not-for-profit aging services.

This award honors the legacy of Barbara A. Doyle, a longtime leader in the LeadingAge community and former CEO of Carleton-Willard Village. Barbara was known throughout the field as a trusted mentor, colleague, and friend whose leadership, wisdom, and generosity left a lasting impact on countless individuals and organizations.

In Barbara's memory, this award recognizes an individual who reflects those same qualities of distinguished service, principled leadership, mentorship, and enduring commitment to the mission of aging services.

Eligible Nominees: Individuals whose leadership, service, or contributions have had a meaningful and lasting impact on not-for-profit aging services. Nominees may include current or retired senior leaders, staff, volunteers, Board members, partners, advocates, or others who have contributed significantly to the field.

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

- Describe the individual you are nominating and why you are nominating them for the Distinguished Service Award in Honor of Barbara A. Doyle.
- Please describe the nominee's history of service, leadership, or contribution to not-for-profit aging services.
- How has this individual made a lasting impact on an organization, the LeadingAge community, or the broader field of aging services?
- In what ways has this individual demonstrated mentorship, generosity, integrity, or sustained commitment to others?
- Please share a specific story or example that illustrates the nominee's distinguished service and lasting influence.
- Please include at least one letter of support from a colleague, organizational leader, Board member, resident, family member, or member of the aging services community.

5. 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 Massachusetts provider member organization

To nominate an organization 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.