

LeadingAge North Carolina invites community/provider members to submit nominations that celebrate excellence, innovation, leadership, and service across our field. Members may submit one nomination per category; self-nominations are welcome.

## SEND YOURS TODAY!

**Nominations Due: January 30, 2026**

Submit Online: [www.LeadingAgeNC.org](http://www.LeadingAgeNC.org) (log-in required)

## AWARD PRESENTATIONS

- Awards Presented at Annual Conference & Expo:

- Excellence in Governance
- Excellence in Innovation\*
- Career Excellence Award

- Awards Presented at Honorees' Community:

- Service Excellence
- Excellence in Leadership

\*Innovation Award recipient(s) may be invited to present at the 2026 Annual Conference.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO SUBMIT

The following items will be required for online submission by **January 30, 2026**.

- Nominee's name and contact information
- Award Category
- Your contact information
- One-page description of the nominee's qualifications
- Headshot or relevant program/organization photo

## TIPS

- Be clear, specific, and concise.
- Use bullets—no polished prose required.
- Provide concrete examples and include measurable results when possible.
- Note that innovation, effort, and risk-taking can also be award-worthy.
- Use the Qualifying Criteria as a guide, but feel free to add anything that strengthens the nomination.

## NOTIFICATION

The person submitting the nomination will be contacted by email with the results of the Awards Selection Committee.



## **Career Excellence Award for Lifetime Achievement**

LeadingAge North Carolina's highest honor recognizes an executive leader whose exemplary leadership, long-term commitment to learning, and dedication to the not-for-profit mission have elevated aging services across the state. Presented at the LeadingAge North Carolina Annual Conference and Expo.

### **Eligible Nominees**

Retiring executive leaders (e.g., President, Vice President, Corporate Officer, Executive Director) whose service and impact have created a lasting legacy.

### **Qualifying Criteria**

- Retiring/leaving leadership position
- History of commitment, leadership, and service within a member community
- Track record of leadership, service, and/or active support of the Association
- Demonstrated excellence in developing and implementing practices that advance aging services
- Significant positive impact on understanding aging, service delivery, and mission enrichment
- Widely recognized record of service, dedication, caring, and foresight across the state

## **Excellence in Leadership**

Recognizes employees in management/team lead or administrative roles who demonstrate strong leadership, commitment to growth, and the ability to motivate others. Presented at the member community.

### **Eligible Nominees**

Employees in management, team lead, or administrative positions within a member community.

### **Qualifying Criteria**

- History of leadership that motivates staff and expands benefits to residents
- Commitment to personal and professional development
- Ability to build influential, collaborative relationships
- Meaningful contributions to organizational quality
- Record of service, dedication, and exemplary leadership
- Known as a mentor who generously shares knowledge
- Willingness to go above and beyond to support and inspire others



## **Service Excellence Award**

Recognizes direct service employees who demonstrate exceptional skill, dedication, and commitment to resident-centered care. Presented at the member community.

### **Eligible Nominees**

Non-managerial frontline, direct service employees from any department in a member community.

### **Qualifying Criteria**

- Consistent excellence in delivering services that affect daily quality of life
- Willingness to exceed role expectations to provide exceptional care
- Personal commitment to enriching the lives of residents
- Strong teamwork and collaboration
- Outstanding dedication to resident choice and autonomy
- Noteworthy response to a specific challenge, reflecting exemplary service and caring
- Ability to inspire others to higher levels of service excellence

## **Excellence in Innovation**

Celebrates programs or best practices that address significant needs and broaden possibilities for aging. Presented at the LeadingAge NC Annual Conference and Expo. Recipients may be invited to present at the conference.

### **Eligible Nominees**

Member communities and/or specific programs, models, or initiatives implemented independently or in partnership.

### **Qualifying Criteria**

- Innovative approaches that enhance quality of life and advance aging services
- Collaboration within the community or with external partners
- Environmental enhancements benefiting residents and/or staff
- New services or practices that improve life or work efficiency
- Demonstrated, financially feasible model with potential for replication



## Excellence in Governance

This award is given to voluntary leaders who have served with distinction on the governing board of a LeadingAge North Carolina member organization and thereby made an outstanding contribution to the well-being of seniors, to the employees who serve them, and to the organization's nonprofit mission.

### Eligible Nominees

Past or present members of the governing board of a member community

### Qualifying Criteria

- A visionary leader who has, as a member of the governing board, advanced the mission of the member community
- A significant contributor of time, effort, and expertise
- Exceptional service beyond the call of duty
- A history of personally significant financial contributions, or an exceptional act of philanthropy through which the mission of the organization has been advanced
- Demonstrated expertise in and openness to best practices in nonprofit governance
- Outstanding leadership in achieving specific goals and objectives of the member organization

