

2026

Awards Nomination Guide



ABOUT THE OHCA AWARDS PROGRAM

The OHCA Annual Convention Awards Program honors long term care professionals, residents, volunteers, and business partners for outstanding service to Oregon's long term care and community-based care residents and clients.

GENERAL NOMINATION GUIDELINES

- Nominations will be accepted online only. All nomination forms received will be verified to ensure that all nominees are members in good standing within OHCA.
- Nominations received for individuals or groups who are not members of OHCA will not be considered.
- Recipients will be selected and notified no later than September 1, 2026 and notified by OHCA by phone.
- Those not selected will receive a certificate of appreciation from OHCA by mail.
- All materials, essays, and photos submitted become the property of OHCA and may be used in OHCA publications and websites. Submitted materials will not be returned.
- Previous recipients of these awards are not eligible to win an OHCA award within two (2) years.

ESSAY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Each nomination should be accompanied by an essay outlining how the nominee meets and demonstrates the criteria into their daily routine.
- Each essay should be no longer than 500 words in length. Please cite specific examples.
- Multiple nominations for the same individual or group are allowed in separate nominations.
- In the essay, please refer to the person as "the nominee" and do not identify the nominee's name, community or location.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All nominees must meet the following basic criteria

- Must have a minimum of two (2) years of experience in the profession and have worked at his/her/their current facility/company for at least six (6) months as of July 1, 2026.
- Must be employed by or a volunteer at an OHCA member facility/agency/company in good standing.
- Exhibits exemplary leadership, communication, and teamwork skills that are inherent in providing high quality care.
- Shows respect for residents, co-workers, family members, and other volunteers at all times.
- Displays integrity, initiative and a high standard of ethical behavior.
- Demonstrates outstanding person-centered care, achieves a heightened quality of life for residents.
- Empowers residents to achieve individual autonomy, dignity, and quality of life in their daily living.
- Creates a positive working environment for staff.
- Exhibits an active role in the local community to enhance the lives of the residents and demonstrates the commitment to contributing to the overall welfare of the community.
- If nominee is a licensed nurse or licensed administrator in Oregon, license must be free of disciplinary action.

DISCLAIMER

OHCA reserves the right not to give an award if fewer than five (5) nominations are submitted for a category. All activities demonstrated by nominees and used in submitted nominations must have been performed in compliance with applicable state and federal labor laws.

Nominations Due by August 9

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OHCAAwards26>

AWARDS CATEGORIES

Nominate your healthcare heroes today!

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Two awards will be given, one for community-based care and one for skilled care. These awards recognize the achievements and commitments of facility administrators and executive directors whose leadership have improved their facility's overall operations and who demonstrate outstanding innovation, achievement, and a high standard of ethical behavior in their provision of high quality person-centered care.

ABOVE AND BEYOND SERVICE

This award recognizes the achievements and commitments of an employee from any department who has shown initiative and performs above and beyond the call of duty. This category includes but is not limited to direct care staff and staff working within your community's housekeeping, dietary, activities/recreation, laundry, and maintenance departments.

CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes the achievements and commitments of a direct care staff member whose contributions have led to the improved quality of life for residents and who creates a better work environment for co-workers.

ENRICHMENT OF LIFE

This award recognizes an individual employee or group of employees for contributions that have positively influenced the quality of life for residents or the quality of the working environment for co-workers. If a group is nominated, the description must include the group's purpose and general focus and the impact of the group's efforts.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM AND IMPROVEMENT

This award recognizes the efforts of a member to satisfy the needs of residents, staff, family, or other customers through an innovative program or interactions with the local community. The award recognizes the development of a creative, original, and unique program or service that benefits or contributes to the quality of operations for a facility overall, the quality of the working environment for the staff and/or the quality of life of the residents. Examples include specific programs created by nominees related to sustainability, wellness, educational activities, collaborations, and community partnerships. The program should provide outreach activities to the local neighborhood/community as well as to the families, staff, and volunteers of the facility. The program must have exhibited a variety of activities for the residents meeting all levels of capabilities and preferences.

LEADERSHIP

This award recognizes the achievements and commitment of an employee in an administrative, middle management, or supervisory position who demonstrates outstanding compassion, supervisory success, innovation, and achievement in their provision of high quality resident-centered care.

NURSE LEADER OF THE YEAR

Two awards will be given: one for community-based care and one for skilled care. These awards recognize the achievements and commitments of nurse leaders who successfully lead their communities to deliver outstanding person-centered care and achieve a heightened quality of life for residents.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes the achievements and commitments of a business partner/vendor whose contributions have improved overall facility operations for a facility or OHCA as an association. Please visit www.ohca.com/buyersguide for a list of eligible business partners.

Questions

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