TOPICAL AWARD CATEGORY
Successful Collaboration
Among Local Governments

DEADLINE: APRIL 21, 2025

All cities are invited and encouraged to participate — submit your entries **TODAY!**

2025

CITYOF excellence AWARD

Each and every day, city officials throughout Minnesota do outstanding work that enhances the quality of life in our communities.

These efforts make Minnesota cities excellent places to live.



Excellence in local government can be defined in many ways.

If your city has recently done one or more of the followng, we encourage you to send an entry:

Improved the quality of a city service.

Developed an effective or innovative way to solve an old or common problem.

Modified a program from another community or organization to fit your city's needs.

Found a way to save your city money while achieving the same or better results.

Creatively involved citizens or other city staff in making a decision.

This is your chance for statewide recognition — from peers, colleagues, city residents, and the media — for a job well done!

ENTRY RULES

EVALUATION

Entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges selected by the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC). Evaluation of the award entries will include analysis of:

- **Structure** how the project or program is planned, organized, administered, and evaluated.
- Goals and results demonstration of how goals were achieved.
- Strengths and weaknesses what worked, and what could be improved.
- Applicability relevance to cities of different sizes, particularly small cities.

ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS

- General Entry Awards are divided into three population categories. Cities may submit an entry in their population category, regardless of topic or service area: 4,999 and under; 5,000 to 29,999; 30,000 or more.
- A single award will also be presented in this year's Topical Award category, "Successful Collaboration Among Local Governments." Cities of any size are encouraged to submit nominations in this category.
- To be eligible, the subject of each entry must be a city-funded and/ or city-administered project or program. The project or program must have been initiated and/or implemented between December 2022 and December 2024. Cities may not enter the same project in both the population category and the topical category.
- Non-winning entries from last year can be resubmitted for consideration, if all eligibility requirements are met.

WINNING ENTRIES

- A first-place award, including a cash prize of \$1,000, will be awarded to the winner in each General Entry Award population category.
- A single award of \$1,000 will also be presented in this year's Topical Award category.
- If no entries in a given category meet judging standards, or if a category has few competitive entries, judges reserve the right to withhold an award in that category.
- Please plan ahead! If your city is selected as a winner, you will be asked to immediately submit several high-resolution photos that may be used in recognition and promotional activities. Additionally, the League will produce a short video for each winning city. Video shoots will be scheduled for early to mid-May.
- Winners will be recognized at the League's Annual Conference, June 25-27 in Duluth.

ENTRY PROCESS

Submit an entry packet via email or mail that includes a completed entry form, required information described on the entry form, and any relevant supporting materials. *Please note that entry materials cannot be returned.*

ENTRY DEADLINE

All entries must be submitted or postmarked by April 21, 2025 Electronic submissions are encouraged.

Questions? Contact Don Reeder at dreeder@lmc.org or (651) 215-4031.

CITY OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Please submit the following information for each entry.	
Name of city:	
Name of your nominated project or program:	
Contact person:	
Title:	
Phone number:	Email address:
In which category are you submitting your entry? (Choose one category — General OR Topical):	

- ☐ General Entry Award (check one population category):
 - ☐ 4,999 and under
 - □ 5,000 to 29,999
 - ☐ 30,000 or more

Requirements for General Award Entries:

- 1. Please provide a brief program/project description (budget, timeframe, goals, collaborations, etc.) of approximately 250 words.
- 2. In addition to your project description, please describe in 500 words or less how your city's project/program has accomplished one or more of the following:
 - a. Improved the quality of a city service.
 - b. Developed an effective or innovative way to solve an old or common problem.
 - c. Modified a program from another community or organization to fit your city's needs.
 - d. Found a way to save your city money and achieve the same or better results.
 - e. Involved citizens or other city staff in making a decision.

☐ Topical Award:

Successful Collaboration Among Local Governments

Requirements for Topical Award Entries:

Through partnerships with neighboring cities and other local government entities, Minnesota cities are discovering new and innovative ways to deliver high quality services that are efficient and cost effective.

Has your city recently collaborated with one or more public entities to provide residents with a new or revised program, service, or facility?

Please explain needs assessment, planning process, development, and results achieved to date.

- 1. Please provide a brief program/project description. Be specific in terms of planning process and intended outcomes.
- 2. Please describe your policy, program or initiative's impact in 500 words or less.

Entries should include no more than three supporting documents.

Examples: reports, proposals, brochures, maps, newsletters, newspaper clippings, charts or graphs, printed website pages, advertisements, or marketing pieces

Electronic submissions are encouraged.

DEADLINE: APRIL 21, 2025

Please note that by submitting your entry, you are granting LMC approval to use your entry for promotional purposes. Completed entries must be submitted or postmarked by April 21, 2025.

Send via email to: Don Reeder at dreeder@lmc.org

Send via USPS mail to: LMC Awards Nominations

Attn: Don Reeder, Public Affairs Coordinator

League of Minnesota Cities 145 University Avenue West St. Paul. MN 55103-2044



HONORING EXCELLENCE — 2024 WINNERS:

Showcase your city's good work, receive special recognition, and win \$1,000 for your city!

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY APRIL 21, 2025. **POPULATION UNDER 5,000**

City of Springfield

Springfield Ambulance Recruitment Project

POPULATION 5,000 TO 29,999

City of Owatonna

Coptober Event

POPULATION 30,000+

City of Shakopee

Financial Transparency Initiative

TOPICAL CATEGORY:

CREATIVE INVOLVEMENT OF CITY RESIDENTS

City of Mankato

Thomas Park Improvement Project



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