



Town/City Awards

EVALUATION

Entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges via a non-partisan 3rd party outside organization. Evaluation of the award entries will include analysis of:

- § Structure – how the project or program is planned, organized, administered, and clearly explained.
- § Goals and results – how well did the program achieve its goals? Be sure to clearly state your objectives and accomplishments.
- § Strengths and weaknesses – how well did you use your resources? Talk about your budget, any grants you received, and highlight any person-power behind your project.
- § Applicability to other municipalities – can other cities or towns learn from your program and adapt your ideas to their community?

Excellence in local government can be defined in many ways. If your municipality has done one or more of the following, we encourage you to send in an entry:

- § Improved the quality of a municipal service.
- § Developed an effective or innovative way to solve an old or common problem. How did your city align strategy with resources, and manage your innovation effectively?
- § Modified a program from another community or organization to fit your needs.
- § Found a way to save your town money and achieve the same or better results.
- § Involved citizens or other town staff in making a decision. How did you tap citizen ideas, capture volunteer energy, and promote engagement?

This is your chance for statewide recognition – from peers, colleagues, residents, and the media – for a job well done.

ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS

- § **General Entry Awards** are divided into three population categories. Towns may submit an entry in their population category regardless of topic or service area.

20,000 and under

20,001 to 40,000

40,001 or more

- § A single award will be presented in this year's **Topical Award** category, "**Creative Use of Resources, Partnerships, and Collaborations**". Towns of all sizes will compete against each other in this category.
- § To be eligible, the subject of each entry must be a municipal-funded and/or municipal-administered project or program. Consider entering any project or program that was in place within the past two years. The project or program must have been initiated and/or implemented between December 2024 and December 2025. Towns may not enter the same project in both the population category and the topical category. No limit on entries per town or city; however, you must choose only one category per entry. **What can you submit for 2026?**



ENTRY PROCESS

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

WINNING ENTRIES

- § A First Place prize will be awarded to the winner in each General Entry Award category. Winners are honored at CCM's Annual Convention in the fall and entries are featured throughout the year on CCM's website and in CT&C magazine. Each winning project will be awarded \$1,000 to be put toward its continued implementation and success.
- § A single prize of \$1,000 will be given in the Topical Award category. Towns of all sizes will compete against each other in this 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.
- § Winning submissions will be notified in advance of the CCM Annual Convention, which is taking place on October 28, 2026 at Mohegan Sun, and will receive special recognition at the Convention.



General and Topical Award Entry Form

2026 MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Please submit the following information for each entry.

Municipality: _____

Name of your nominated project or program: _____

Contact person: _____

Contact person's title: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

In which category are you submitting your entry?

§ **General Entry Award**

(Check one population category):

- .. **20,000 and under**
- .. **20,001 to 40,000**
- .. **40,001 or more**

OR

§ **Topical Award**

.. "Creative Use of Resources, Partnerships, and Collaborations"

1. On a separate page, in 600 words or less, please provide a brief program/project description (to include budget, time frame, goals, collaborations, etc.).
2. Entries in both the General Entry Award and Topical award categories will be evaluated in terms of project/program structure, project/program goals and results, project/program strengths and weaknesses, and applicability to other towns as best practice.

§ **For General Award Entries**

On a separate page, in 600 words or less, please describe how your town's project/program has accomplished one or more of the following:

- a. Improved the quality of a town 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 needs.
 - d. Found a way to save your town money and achieve the same or better results.
 - e. Creatively involved citizens or other town staff in making a decision.
3. Entries may include supporting documents (e.g., reports, proposals, photos, brochures, maps, newsletters, newspaper clippings, charts or graphs, printed website pages, advertisements, or marketing pieces). Submitting entries on no more than 10 sheets of single-sided paper is helpful to our judging panel.



MUNICIPAL *excellence* AWARDS

Please note that, by submitting your entry, you are granting CCM approval to use your entry for promotional purposes.

ENTRY DEADLINE

All entries must be submitted by **Friday, August 28, 2026**.

Send via email to: memberservices@ccm-ct.org

Questions?: Contact memberservices@ccm-ct.org or (203) 498-3049



Individual Awards

Joel Cogen Lifetime Achievement Award



The Joel Cogen Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to an individual who has made a significant and unique contribution to Connecticut or to his or her community over an extended period of years.

The award was established in memory of CCM's first Executive Director, Joel Cogen. His dedication to advocating for the interests of Connecticut municipalities and promoting efficiency and responsiveness within municipal governments persists as an example for all of us. CCM celebrates his life and service through this award.

Richard C. Lee Innovators Award



Presented by CCM to recognize municipal leaders that have developed unique and creative projects and programs to increase the effectiveness of local government. Innovators are individuals in any area of government who address problems common to municipalities throughout Connecticut in new ways.

The award was established in memory of CCM founder Richard C. Lee, the former mayor of New Haven whose urban renewal programs earned national recognition and created a template for decades of future city revitalization projects. His lifetime commitment to excellence in city government set an example for all of us. CCM celebrates his life and service through this award.



Individual Entry Form

2026 MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Please submit the following information for each entry.

Name of nominee: _____

Award Nominated for: _____

Contact person: _____

Contact person's title: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

On a separate page, in 600 words or less, please provide a brief summary of the nominee's achievements as they pertain to the award.

ENTRY DEADLINE

All entries must be submitted or postmarked by **Friday, August 28, 2026.**

Electronic submissions are encouraged.

Send via email to: memberservices@ccm-ct.org

Questions? Contact memberservices@ccm-ct.org or (203) 498-3049

