



Call for Nominations Guide

Recognizing outstanding leadership, innovation, communication excellence, and contributions that advance public sector human resources.

Award Overviews, Nomination Templates,
and Submission Information
www.naspe.net/award_call

Submission Deadline: April 17, 2026

For questions, contact:
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About the NASPE Awards Program

Since 1994, the NASPE Awards Program has recognized outstanding leadership, innovation, communication excellence, and contributions that advance public sector human resources.

The awards honor individuals and programs that strengthen state human resource administration and improve outcomes for public employees and the citizens they serve.

Awards are presented annually at the NASPE Annual Meeting, where recipients are recognized publicly and highlighted through NASPE communications.

Awards Categories

Eugene H. Rooney, Jr - Leadership Award

Recognizes an individual whose leadership strengthens state HR administration.

Eugene H. Rooney - Innovative Program Award

Programs must be operational for at least six months and demonstrate transferability.

Eva N. Santos Communication Award

Recognizes communications efforts demonstrating measurable impact and effective use of resources.

Advancing the HR Profession Award

Programs must be operational for at least six months and demonstrate adaptability to other states.

Timeline

Call for Nominations Opens: February 25, 2026

Call for Nominations Closes: April 17, 2026

Judging Period: Late April - Mid May 2026

Award Notifications: Late May 2026

Awards Luncheon: July 21, 2026

Who May Nominate

Nominations from dues-paying states are considered for eligibility.

Nominees, programs, and efforts should demonstrate a positive impact on the administration of state human resource programs.

How to Submit a Nomination

- 1. Choose an award**
Pick the award category that matches your nominee, program, or communications effort.
- 2. Download the template**
Complete the matching nomination template to your selected award.
- 3. Attach requirements**
Add any required attachments listed in the template
- 4. Submit Online**
Submit using the online nomination form by April 17, 2026.

What Judges Consider

Program Awards:

Rooney, Jr. - Innovative Program
Santos Communication Award
Advancing the HR Profession Award

- Creativity
- Program Effectiveness
- Cost Effectiveness
- Transferability

Leadership Award:

Rooney, Jr. - Leadership Award

- Leadership Impact
- NASPE Impact
- Beyond-State Impact