

**2026**

TENNESSEE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

**AWARDS  
OF EXCELLENCE**



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HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS IS FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

# 2026 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The Tennessee Hospital Association (THA) has issued a call for nominations for its 2026 Awards of Excellence. Each year, the association conducts an awards program to honor individuals and organizations that have significantly contributed to the association or one of its institutional members. Awards to be presented this year are:

- CEO of Distinction
- Nurse Leader of Distinction
- Community Health Impact
- Senior Executive of Distinction
- Clinical Nurse of Distinction
- Organizational Excellence
- Trustee of Distinction
- Patient Safety Leadership

Presentations will be made during the THA Annual Meeting, scheduled from September 24-25, 2026 at Omni Nashville Hotel. *Award recipients will receive advance notice of the date and time their award is presented.*

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, April 24, 2026. All nominations must be submitted via MyTHA and considered final on or before this date to be eligible. To be considered final, all required field forms must be completed, all nomination materials must be uploaded, and CEO approval must be completed in MyTHA (required for all awards except CEO of Distinction).

It is the responsibility of the hospital or health system to make all arrangements associated with ensuring the presence of the nominee at the awards presentation. The nominating hospital is responsible for purchasing event registration for the award recipients and guests, as well as travel and hotel accommodations. THA does not cover these expenses.

## NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS AND MYTHA SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the criteria for each award. Documentation supporting nominations becomes the property of THA. Hospitals and health systems may submit up to five nominations across the entire awards program.

The Awards of Excellence Committee reserves the right to move nominations into more appropriate categories and to decline presenting an award in a category if no appropriate nominations are submitted.

**All nominations must be submitted through MyTHA. Email submissions will not be accepted.**

1. [Log in](#) to your MyTHA account. Most members already have an account. If you have not previously logged in, select "I forgot my password." If you are not in the system, you may [create a new account](#).
2. Navigate to the [Awards](#) page.
3. Select the appropriate award category.
4. Complete all required form fields.
  - The form may be completed by the official nominator or by another individual on the nominator's behalf.
  - Award nomination materials, excluding the photo, must be combined and uploaded as a single PDF.
  - The nominee photo must be uploaded separately.
5. Upon submission, the CEO of the nominating hospital will automatically be notified and prompted to provide approval through MyTHA. A nomination is not considered final until CEO approval is completed.
6. After submission, nominators may view the status of their nominations in MyTHA under [My Award Nominations](#).

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Laila Karim at [awards@tha.com](mailto:awards@tha.com).

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## CEO OF DISTINCTION AWARD

The CEO of Distinction Award recognizes leadership and service by an individual member to THA during their entire career, not for a single act or contribution. It also recognizes achievements and contributions to the healthcare industry. Nominees must be employed as a chief executive officer by an institutional member of the association for a minimum of six years, which must be documented in the nomination (does not need to be at the same institution).

### Submit via MyTHA in a single PDF document:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) citing contributions, achievements, honors, etc., to THA, their institution, and healthcare in Tennessee.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination. One letter must be from the institution's board chair. One letter may also be from an individual not employed by or directly associated with the nominee's employer. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.

### Submit via MyTHA as a separate file:

- A high-resolution JPEG or PNG photograph of the nominee suitable for publication. Photos will not be shared with the review committee.

## SENIOR EXECUTIVE OF DISTINCTION AWARD

The Senior Executive of Distinction Award recognizes leadership and service by individuals in support of THA member hospitals and health systems. Individuals in the c-suite are eligible for this award, including chief operating officers, assistant or associate administrators, vice presidents, chief nursing officers, chief medical officers, etc. Nominees must be employed by a THA member hospital or health system for a minimum of four years (does not need to be at the same institution). This award recognizes individual contributions to the work of member institutions of THA or the association.

### Submit via MyTHA in a single PDF document:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including contributions to the healthcare industry, employer, association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination. One letter must be signed by the institution's CEO. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.

### Submit via MyTHA as a separate file:

- A high-resolution JPEG or PNG photograph of the nominee suitable for publication. Photos will not be shared with the review committee.

## TRUSTEE OF DISTINCTION AWARD

The Trustee of Distinction Award recognizes active or recently retired members of the board of directors or associate/advisory board of a THA member institution. They must have served as hospital or health system trustees for a minimum of four years.

### Submit via MyTHA in a single PDF document:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including contributions to the healthcare industry, employer, association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination. One letter must be signed by the institution's CEO. Other letters may be from a board member colleague and/or from an officer or member of the medical staff. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.

### Submit via MyTHA as a separate file:

- A high-resolution JPEG or PNG photograph of the nominee suitable for publication. Photos will not be shared with the review committee.

## NURSE LEADER OF DISTINCTION AWARD

The Nurse Leader of Distinction Award recognizes outstanding contributions in nursing by a registered nurse employed at a THA member hospital or health system in the position of nursing director, manager, supervisor, clinical educator, case manager, nurse manager, or leader responsible for quality initiatives and improved patient outcomes. Areas of achievement to be considered include quality improvement, innovative retention and recruitment proposals, cost reduction initiatives, and leadership abilities. Please note, CNOs should be nominated in the Senior Executive of Distinction category. Nominees must be employed by a THA member institution for a minimum of four years (does not need to be at the same institution).

### Submit via MyTHA in a single PDF document:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including contributions to the healthcare industry, employer, association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination. One letter must be signed by the institution's CEO. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.

### Submit via MyTHA as a separate file:

- A high-resolution JPEG or PNG photograph of the nominee suitable for publication. Photos will not be shared with the review committee.

## CLINICAL NURSE OF DISTINCTION AWARD

The Clinical Nurse of Distinction Award recognizes outstanding contributions by registered nurses who contribute directly at the point of care and/or bedside nursing at a THA member hospital or health system. Areas of achievement to be considered include outstanding or exemplary bedside patient care, serving as a role model for colleagues, mentoring new staff, serving as a patient advocate, being proactive in making recommendations, and supporting of process improvements on behalf of improved outcomes for patients. Nominees must be employed by a THA member institution for a minimum of four years (does not need to be at the same institution).

### Submit via MyTHA in a single PDF document:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including contributions to the healthcare industry, employer, association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.

### Submit via MyTHA as a separate file:

- A high-resolution JPEG or PNG photograph of the nominee suitable for publication. Photos will not be shared with the review committee.

## PATIENT SAFETY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Patient Safety Leadership Award recognizes an individual who has taken extraordinary and innovative steps to make patient safety and quality a top priority in their organization. It honors superior efforts in preventing adverse health events and measures improvement through the hospital's participation in the Tennessee Center for Patient Safety collaboratives. Nominees must be employed by a THA member institution for a minimum of four years (does not need to be at the same institution).

### Submit via MyTHA in a single PDF document:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including:
  - A description of specific quality and patient safety activities and projects this individual has led, implementation strategies used, and outcomes achieved.
  - Data and graphs demonstrating improvements are encouraged and do not count against the narrative page limit.
  - Quality and patient safety activities may include activities with the Tennessee Center for Patient Safety, organizational culture changes to support safety, and other contributions to the healthcare industry, the individual's employer, the association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.

### Submit via MyTHA as a separate file:

- A high-resolution JPEG or PNG photograph of the nominee suitable for publication. Photos will not be shared with the review committee.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACT AWARD

The Community Health Impact Award recognizes an organization or individual for demonstrated impact on the health and well-being of a community. This award honors efforts that improve community health, expand access to care, or address barriers that affect health outcomes. Eligible recipients may include hospitals, primary care practices, post-acute providers, community health organizations, or individuals whose work has resulted in measurable improvements in community health or patient access. Nominees are not required to be THA members; however, all nominations must be submitted by a THA member. When a nominee is not a THA member, the nomination should describe the collaboration with a THA member hospital/health system and the shared impact achieved. Individual nominees must be employed by an eligible institution for a minimum of four years (does not need to be at the same institution).

### Submit via MyTHA in a single PDF document:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including contributions to the healthcare industry, employer, association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee(s).
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.

### Submit via MyTHA as a separate file:

- A high-resolution JPEG or PNG photograph of the nominee suitable for publication. Photos will not be shared with the review committee.

## ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Organizational Excellence Award recognizes an individual for excellence in advancing overall organizational performance and effectiveness. This award honors innovation and commitment to continuous improvement by strengthening operations, workplace culture, patient satisfaction/care, strategic execution, or other key priorities. Improvements and excellence can be demonstrated in any area including, but not limited to, workforce development, finance and revenue cycle, facility management, environmental services, supply chain, information systems, and communications. Nominees may work in any department or area of the organization and may be at any level or job classification. Nominees must be employed by a THA member institution for a minimum of four years (does not need to be at the same institution).

### Submit via MyTHA in a single PDF document:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including contributions to the healthcare industry, employer, association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.

### Submit via MyTHA as a separate file:

- A high-resolution JPEG or PNG photograph of the nominee suitable for publication. Photos will not be shared with the review committee.