



MISSISSIPPI
**Municipal
Excellence**
AWARDS
2025

CATEGORIES



The competition is divided into two population categories, under 10,000 and over 10,000, with one overall winner.

Within each population range, there are five categories.

- **Public Safety • Economic Development & Infrastructure**
- **City Spirit • Community Health • Youth in Action**

Public Safety

Applications in this category would include efforts to improve the safety and security of the city. Included would be law enforcement programs, fire and emergency response programs, youth programs related to public safety and disaster response programs.

Economic Development & Infrastructure

Applications in this category combine the best efforts in planning for growth, stability, and improved quality of life and the resulting projects they produce. Show plans that your municipality has made and the results that have followed in the areas of public works and infrastructure improvements that have impacted economic development.

City Spirit

This category is to recognize efforts by the community to come together to make their city a better place to live. Examples could include festivals, litter pickup, veterans programs, pet-friendly events, senior adult care, etc. Projects submitted in this category should have a positive, lasting impact on the city/town, inspiring others to contribute to the community's growth and unity.

Community Health

This category would include building healthy community environments through active lifestyle programs, nutrition education, and improving access to healthier food choices in your community.

Youth in Action

This category would include efforts to engage youth (Pre-K through 12th grade) in community programs such as: civics education, summer programs, community service and parks and recreation.

Municipalities may submit only one entry in each of the five subject categories (for a total of five entries per city or town). Each entry should demonstrate a proven record of effectiveness and evidence that the program or person has achieved its goals.

APPLICATION PROCESS



The awards program is open to all MML members in good standing. Each municipality can submit one award application in each subject category, for a total of five applications. Entries must describe programs or projects brought to conclusion or showing significant results between April 27, 2024 and April 25, 2025.

For each project submitted, an official Municipal Excellence Award entry application must be completed. Please type or legibly print information requested on the award application. **The application must be signed by the city's chief elected or administrative officer.** One copy of each application MUST be submitted.

The applications should be paper clipped together. *Please do not put in a three-ring binder.*

When completing the award application, the description of the project must be concise and limited to less than 75 words. The summary of the project, which can be longer, should include the following information:

- Why the project/individual/group was initiated?
- How it accomplished the goal?
- Who benefited?
- What was the level of cooperation/ feedback/interest/ participation in the city?
- What were the time or money savings?
- What were time and money costs?
- What was the improvement to quality of service or livability of the city?
- What is the future impact on the city?

Each applicant is asked to provide one, high-quality original copy of the application (paper clipped together). The League will make copies for the judges. Please DO NOT provide videos or display with your application. You are encouraged to include digital or high-resolution printed photos of your project if applicable. All applications submitted will become the property of the Mississippi Municipal League and will not be returned.

Judging Process

Entries will be screened by MML staff for completeness. Any entries deemed not complete will be excluded. Final judging will be conducted by an independent panel of judges with considerable experience in the area of municipal government. Judging will take place in Jackson and will be closed to the public. Judges will be asked to look for the following attributes of each entry:

- Is the project innovative?
- Did the project achieve its goal?
- What is the long-term value to the city?
- Can the project be adopted in other cities?

Announcement of Winners

All winning applicants will be notified by phone. Winners will be featured in a future issue of *Mississippi Municipalities* magazine. In addition, the winners will be recognized at the MML Annual Conference to be held in July 2025.

Application Deadline

All entries, including additional material if submitted, must be submitted to the MML office by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2025.

MAIL OR SHIP ENTRIES TO

MML Municipal Excellence Awards Program • 600 East Amite Street, Suite 104 • Jackson, MS 39201

Application deadline is Friday, April 25, 2025. Faxed applications will not be accepted. Entries, including photographs, will not be returned. The Mississippi Municipal League, its staff, officers and board of directors will not be responsible for any lost, delayed or misdirected award applications. Applications and photos can be emailed to kwilliams@mmlonline.com

Additional information on the MML Municipal Excellence Awards Program can be obtained by contacting the MML office at 601-353-5854 or visiting the MML website at www.mmlonline.com.

APPLICATION



City Name _____

Population ☐ Under 10,000 ☐ Over 10,000 ☐ Specific Population _____

Supreme Court District ☐ Northern ☐ Central ☐ Southern

Category ☐ Public Safety ☐ Economic Development & Infrastructure ☐ City Spirit
☐ Community Health ☐ Youth in Action

Title of Entry _____

Description of Project _____

Project Summary (use additional pages if necessary) _____

Signature of Chief Elected or Appointed Official _____

Please provide the following information in case of questions about the application.

Contact Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

AWARDS CHECKLIST



- Have you completed an award application for each entry?
- Has the award application been signed by the city's chief elected or administrative officer?
- Have you included one application? (No additional copies are necessary.) **(Do not put in a 3-ring binder.)**
- Please number the pages of the original.
- Will your completed award application and optional additional materials reach the MML office by 4 p.m. on April 25, 2025?

Reminders

- Applications will be judged in two population categories: under 10,000 and over 10,000.
- All materials submitted will become property of the Mississippi Municipal League and will not be returned.