



Michigan Municipal Executives Awards Program 2025-2026



Michigan
Municipal
Executives

A State Affiliate of ICMA

About Us

Strengthening the Quality of Local Governance through Professional Management.

Michigan Municipal Executives (MME) is the primary professional organization in Michigan for local government managers and administrators and their leadership teams. The purpose of MME is to foster and encourage the personal and professional development of its members in order that they may better serve their communities and to promote, encourage, and preserve high ethical standards for municipal administrators.

Mission Statement

MME works to provide members' professional development, support their personal growth, and promote the municipal executive profession in Michigan. In service to its members and their communities, MME seeks to enhance management excellence, continuous improvement, and high ethical standards.

Committees: There are seven overarching committees made up of MME members, with a chair and vice-chair. These committees meet throughout the year to discuss, plan, and offer recommendations to the Board of Directors on a variety of issues and potential actions.

Board of Directors: The MME Board of Directors is made up of sixteen members including the President, President Elect, Vice President, Immediate Past President, and twelve Directors. They are elected by the voting members of MME and take office at the Annual Membership Meeting during the Winter Institute each year. The Board of Directors also includes a non-voting Secretary/Treasurer and non-voting ex-officio members from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).



The **MME Annual Awards Program** recognizes outstanding contributions and achievements to the field of municipal leadership. MME proudly announces and honors award recipients annually at our Winter Institute held in January.

Our **Awards Program** aims to:

- Celebrate innovation and excellence in local governance
- Inspire future municipal leaders through exemplary role models
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement in public service
- Promote best practices across communities
- Raise awareness of our members and their dedication to community

Award Application:

- Award Application Link can be accessed at:
www.mme.org/awards/
- Direct Link: <https://forms.gle/tv2eYePsPZiTEeih7>



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AWARD CATEGORIES

Emerging Leader Award: This award recognizes a top performer who has served at least three years in the profession in one or more of the following roles: Management Analyst, Management Assistant, Assistant to the City Manager/Administrator, Assistant City Manager/Administrator, or Deputy City Manager/Administrator and has been identified by their organization as a dynamic early career leader whose skills and abilities set them apart and they are seen as having great future potential in our profession.

Christine Burns Award: This award recognizes MME professionals that have not only exhibited excellence in municipal management and leadership but also made a difference in enhancing career opportunities for women in the local government management profession. This award is presented annually in the name of Christine Burns, former Spring Lake Village Manager and MME President.

Innovation Award: This award recognizes MME professionals who have developed innovative solutions to providing services to their community. The innovation should have increased the level or quality of service offered and at a sustainable cost for the community to continue the service for the foreseeable future.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Community Leadership Award: This award recognizes MME professionals that have helped guide their community through a significant event that resulted in a favorable outcome. The event should have been a significant concern for the majority of the citizens and the solution a clear beneficial outcome to the community.

Mentoring Award: This award recognizes the MME professional who has made significant contributions in the development of new talent and/or who has designed and implemented outstanding career development programs for local government employees.

New Executive Achievement Award: This award recognizes new municipal executives to the profession - anyone from 1-5 years of experience. This application should express how the executive came into the profession and any challenges the new executive faced and navigated when beginning his/her career and recent accomplishments.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Executive of the Year Award: This award recognizes the MME professional that has made significant contributions to the field of local government management over the past 12 months.

Outstanding Assistant Award: This award recognizes the deputy or assistant manager or administrator that has demonstrated outstanding performance, particularly with a special project or during a period of unique conditions and circumstances.

DEI Leadership Award: This award recognizes MME professionals that have led, implemented, and supported diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in their organizations and communities that have improved the lives and experience of people across the range of human differences, i.e. race, gender, age, sexual preference, nationality, ethnicity, etc.

Retiree Impact Award: This award recognizes a retired MME professional who has made significant retirement contributions in the mentor of new talent and/or continued development and progress to experienced talent contributing to local government employees.

AWARD CATEGORIES

John M. Patriarche Distinguished Service Award: The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor the association bestows. It honors members of the Michigan Municipal Executives association who have been members of the association for a significant number of years. Those honored have worked consistently and effectively to foster representative democracy by enhancing the effectiveness of local elected officials through innovative programs, projects, and by consistency in providing excellence in character and professionalism. A nominee must have been a member of the MME or its predecessors for a significant number of years.



AWARDS IMPORTANT DATES

9/22/2025: Award Applications **OPEN**

10/29/2025: Award Applications **CLOSE**

Early November: MME Experience Committee Reviews Applications

Early December: Award recipients notified

January 20–23, 2026: Award Presentations @ MME Winter Institute in Traverse City

PATRIARCHE AWARD IMPORTANT DATES

6/16/2025: Patriarche Award Application **OPENS**

7/25/2025: Patriarche Award Application **CLOSES**

Early August: MME Experience Committee Reviews Application

Late August: Award recipient notified

September 17–19, 2025: Award Presentation @ MML Convention in Grand Rapids

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Nominee Requirements

- Nominees must have been a member of MME within the past 12 months
- Contributions must align with the organization's mission and values
Previous winners may be nominated for the same award after five years
Winners and nominees may be considered for other awards
Committee members nominated for an award must abstain from related discussions and voting
- A biography or CV outlining relevant experience is required
- Self nominations **ARE accepted** for the following awards:
 - Innovation Award
 - Community Leadership Award
 - Mentoring Award
 - DEI Leadership Award
- Self nominations are **NOT allowed** for the following awards:
 - Emerging Leader Award
 - New Executive Achievement Award
 - Outstanding Assistant Award
 - John M. Patriarche Award
 - Retiree Impact Award
 - Christine Burns Award
 - Executive of the Year Award

Nomination Requirements

To nominate a member, the submitter must:

- Be a member of MME
- Complete all required forms
- Submit by the deadline
- Provide accurate supporting documents
- Include contact info for both nominee and self
- Include a statement (maximum 500 words) addressing selection criteria
- Up to three testimonials or letters of support (optional)

Thank you!



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