communities of excellence 2026
Assessment & Recognition
A CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

BECOME A REVIEWER ON OUR COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNTION PANEL!

- ✓ Do you have experience with cross-sector collaboration either within your community or your organization?
- ✓ Are you familiar with, or want to learn more about the Baldrige-based Communities of Excellence Framework?
- ✓ Are you passionate about supporting excellence in communities?

Benefits

- Increase your understanding of the inter-connected systems that make up a community and gain unique insights that will contribute to your career growth in any organizational setting.
- Help communities achieve ever higher levels of performance and identify national community role models and performance excellence standards.
- Gain in-depth experience applying the 2023-2024 Communities of Excellence Framework.
- Learn alongside community leaders and industry experts.
- Receive recognition on the Communities of Excellence website and at our yearly conference.
- Become a part of an expanding organization that is transforming community performance across the country.

Who Should Serve

Anyone with a passion for improving community outcomes is welcome! Formal and informal leaders/aspiring leaders from all sectors, as well as subject matter experts, quality, performance excellence, and community development professionals and Community Excellence Group members will all find meaning and career growth opportunities through this experience.

Reviewer Requirements/Expectations

1. Submit the Community Assessment and Recognition Panel Reviewer Application.
2. Commit to serving for one year. A new application should be submitted each year.
3. Reviewers must commit to high work standards, meet team deadlines, maintain confidentiality, conduct themselves with the highest of ethical standards and integrity.

Time Commitment

Level 1 – Commitment to Community Excellence (Reviewers can be assigned at any time throughout the year)	10-20 hours
Level 2 – Journey to Community Excellence	20-30 hours
Level 3 – Community of Excellence (Experienced Reviewers may be asked to participate in training and coaching sessions, and serve as judges	40-60

Reviewer Process and Timeline

Call for Reviewers	Reviewer Application Period Closes	Reviewer Selections	Reviewers Receive Community Application Assignments	Reviewer Training	Assessment Team Orientation	Community Application Assessment Begins
April 15 – May 15	May 15	May 15 – May 31	May 31	June 12, 19, 26	Early July	Level 3: July 8 Level 1, 2: July 22

Investment

First time Reviewers and Reviewers who have not served in the past three years (2020 and earlier)	$175
Returning COE Reviewers (served at least once in 2021, 2022, or 2023)	$0