Voluntary Organization of the Year Award 2025

The Voluntary Organization of the Year Award recognizes one U.S. voluntary organization that made extraordinary emergency management contributions within the United States.

Eligibility

- The nominated organization made significant and extraordinary emergency management contributions within the United States during the previous year.
- The nominated organization is recognized by IAEM and/or FEMA as an emergency management organization (MOU, other acknowledgements) and/or, the organization is listed as a national member on the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) website, www.nvoad.org or state/territory equivalent.
- Self-nominations are allowed for this award category.
- A nominee for Voluntary Organization of the Year must not have received an award in the previous two years.
- The recipient does not need to attend the IAEM Annual Conference to be selected although they are strongly encouraged to participate in the conference. The IAEM Awards Committee or judges are not informed about conference registration and do not consider it in decision-making.

Completing the Official Award Entry/Nomination

- **Method:** An entry **must** be submitted in English on the official IAEM awards portal available on the Membership Dashboard on the iaem.org website. Non-IAEM members who wish to submit an entry for this award must register as a Guest on the IAEM website to gain access to the awards portal. Non-members of IAEM must pay a $75 entry fee. All entry details must be complete, or the entry will be disqualified. Please note some fields have word count limitations.

- **Supporting Materials**: No supporting materials are required for this award.

Judging Criteria

Documentation of the following criteria must be submitted via the awards portal.

Category	Documentation	Weight
Community Needs	Describe how specific needs are addressed and who receives the services of the voluntary organization. Examples include initiative(s) that the organization developed in support of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, which should reflect more than traditional provision of disaster relief services such as shelter, housing, meals, counseling, and financial assistance.	40%

Operations	Explain how many volunteers participated during the previous calendar year; how frequently the service is provided; and what distinguishes this organization's volunteer program from others.	25%
Results	Provide specific results achieved during the previous calendar year (not boilerplate from website).	25%
Diversity	Address how the voluntary organization serves all clients without regard to race, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, language spoken, citizenship status, geographic location, disability, sexual orientation, or gender expression (not boilerplate from website).	10%

Judging Process

The award entries will be judged based on the compliance of content requirements explained above.

All award entries will be evaluated through an unbiased selection process.

Only written documentation via entries and uploads on the awards portal will be reviewed. Incomplete entries will not be considered.

Judges are assigned by the Awards & Recognition Committee Chair or designee. Judges who have a conflict-of-interest as defined in the *IAEM Code of Conduct* will be recused from judging that entry.

Judges will provide a recommendation for selection of one recipient of this award to the IAEM-USA Awards and Recognition Committee whose decisions are final. Any questions can be referred to the Awards and Recognition Committee Chair.

Announcement of Award Results

Once the USA Awards and Recognition Committee confirms the award recipient, IAEM Headquarters will notify the recipient, the nominator, and the recipient's IAEM Region President. Additionally, nominators of entries not selected will be notified.

Questions

If you have a question about this award or its criteria, please email: awards@iaem.com. Phone calls are not accepted. Email questions prior to the entry deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.