

NEAFCS Awards Program Changes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. What do I need to do differently for the 2027 awards cycle?

A. Beginning with the 2027 awards cycle, members should work closely with their state/affiliate leadership to complete and finalize award applications before submitting them for national consideration.

The key changes members need to know are:

- Work with your state/affiliate to review and finalize your application before submitting it nationally.
- Submit your completed award application by February 15 through the National Awards Portal.
- Applications submitted through the National Awards Portal should be considered final submissions.
- State/affiliate award review and scoring will take place between February 15 and March 1.
- Only applications meeting the minimum state score requirement will advance to national judging.
- State Winners advancing to the national level will be submitted by the Affiliate through the State Winner Form by March 1.

Members should continue to use the Awards Manual and award criteria when preparing their applications and allow adequate time for state/affiliate review prior to submitting into the awards portal before the national deadline.

Q. Why is NEAFCS making changes to the Awards Program?

A. NEAFCS is committed to continually improving the Awards Program to ensure it remains meaningful, accessible, and aligned with the needs of our members and affiliates. The upcoming changes are designed to streamline processes, enhance the member experience, and ensure a consistent, high-level approach to award review and advancement across all affiliates and the national organization.

Q. When will the new changes take effect?

A. The updated Awards Program procedures will take effect beginning with the 2027 Awards Cycle.

Q. What changes are being made to the Awards Program?

A. NEAFCS will be implementing several updates to the awards submission and review process, including:

- The timeline for submitting national award applications has changed.
 - The deadline for award applications is February 15. The deadline for State Winner Form submissions is March 1.
 - The National Awards Application Form will open in mid-January 2027.
 - The National Awards Application Form will only be used to collect final submissions. All award applications should be reviewed, edited, and finalized at the state/affiliate level prior to submission through the National Awards Form. Once submitted through the national portal, applications are considered final.
 - All affiliate award submissions will be reviewed and scored at the state/affiliate level between February 15 and March 1. Only applications that meet the minimum state score requirement may advance to the national level for judging through the State Winner Form.

Q. Will the award categories or specific award requirements change?

A. No. These updates do not change the award categories or award criteria. The Awards Manual will continue to be posted by November 15 each year so members have ample time to review award information, eligibility requirements, and submission criteria before the application deadline.

Q. Are the award deadlines changing?

A. Yes. The awards timeline will change as follows:

- November 15: Awards Manual and updated award information available
- Mid-January: National Awards Application Form opens
- February 15: Deadline for award submissions in the National Awards Portal
- February 15–March 1: State/affiliate award review and scoring period
- March 1: Deadline for State Winner Form submission
- March: National judging of advanced award submissions
- Mid-to-late April: Award notifications sent

The updated award calendar and important deadlines will be communicated through NEAFCS channels, including email announcements, the NEAFCS website, and member resources.

Q. Where can I find the updated award guidelines and submission information?

A. Updated award timelines, guidelines, instructions, and resources will be available on the NEAFCS Awards Website: <https://www.neafcs.org/awards-documents-application-instructions>

Members are encouraged to review the updated materials before beginning their award submissions.

Q. Will the online submission process change?

A. The process for submitting an award application has not changed. The purpose of these updates is to ensure that applications are reviewed at the state/affiliate level before being submitted through the national portal. This will ensure that applications submitted nationally represent final, reviewed submissions.

Q. Do I need to create a new account or update my information before submitting an award?

A. No. Members will not need to create a new account or update their information specifically because of these changes.

Q. How will the changes impact award recipients?

A. The goal of these updates is to provide a stronger and more consistent recognition experience for all award recipients while continuing to celebrate the outstanding work and accomplishments of Family and Consumer Sciences professionals.

Q. Who should I contact if I have questions about the Awards Program?

A. Questions regarding the Awards Program may be directed to: awards@neafcs.org