

## National CERT Conference Awards Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



As we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CERT, we would like to recognize all the great CERT programs, volunteers, and partners that have contributed to making CERT so successful. An awards ceremony will be held during the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **National CERT Conference on August 28, 2026 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Irvine, California**. We are asking for nominations for the following categories:

- ❖ CERT Volunteer of the Year
- ❖ CERT Program Manager of the Year
- ❖ CERT Team in Action
- ❖ CERT Multicultural Award
- ❖ CERT Community Outreach Project

**To submit a nomination, please complete the [online nomination form](#): by May 1, 2026.**

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### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. What is the timeline for award nominations?**

Award nominations may be submitted April 1 – May 1 via the online Google Form. Award recipients will be notified mid-May.

**2. What are the application requirements?**

Applicants, or those nominating others, must complete the [online nomination form](#). The description of achievement should be at least 1500 words.

**3. What is the eligible time period for achievements to be considered for an award?**

Achievements for recognition must have taken place between January 2024 and March 2026.

**4. What are the award categories?**

There are five competitive award categories:

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- **CERT Volunteer of the Year:** recognizes an individual CERT volunteer who demonstrates exceptional commitment, service, and leadership in support of community preparedness and emergency response.
- **CERT Program Manager of the Year:** recognizes a CERT Program Manager who demonstrates outstanding leadership, innovation, and dedication to building a strong and effective CERT program.
- **CERT Team in Action:** recognizes a CERT Team that demonstrates exceptional teamwork, coordination, and impact during a deployment/activation in the community.
- **CERT Multicultural Award:** recognizes a CERT volunteer or program that demonstrates outstanding commitment to culturally responsive emergency preparedness and response.
- **CERT Community Outreach Project:** recognizes a CERT Team community outreach project that demonstrates exceptional dedication to engaging, educating, and empowering the community in emergency preparedness, response, and resilience.

### 5. Who can apply for an award?

- **Volunteer of the Year** – any unpaid volunteer serving in any role or capacity of a registered\* CERT program
- **Program Manager of the Year** – any Program Manager (paid or unpaid) of a registered CERT program
- **Team in Action** – any registered CERT program that deployed during January 2024 – March 2026.
- **Multicultural Award** – any CERT volunteer or program engaged in developing or implementing culturally responsive emergency preparedness and response.
- **Community Outreach Project** – any CERT volunteer or program engaged in individual and community preparedness.

### 6. Can I submit an application for my own organization?

You may submit an application for your own organization, be nominated by someone else, or nominate an organization you believe deserves recognition.

Nominees must include the name and contact information for a local City/County Official who will verify that the program is active in their community.

### 7. Can applicants apply for more than one award category?

Applicants can apply for up to two award categories.

### 8. Who will review the award submissions?

Award submissions will be reviewed by the conference awards committee.

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### **9. When will winners of the awards be announced?**

Winners of the conference awards will be announced during the conference awards lunch on Friday, August 28.

### **Consent for use**

Please note that by applying for the conference awards, you consent to allow the conference planning team use of the contents of your application on conference websites, blogs, and other communications. In the event that the conference wishes to promote, share, or otherwise use the contents of your application, you will be contacted first.

### **Privacy**

Your contact information is being collected solely for use of the conference awards application process. Your information will not be shared or used by any external entity beyond those participating in the application review process.