

## **2026 (Cycle 16) Lantern Award Application Changes**

The link to the revised online application will be available on the Lantern Award webpage from Nov. 19, 2025, through Feb. 25, 2026.

<https://www.ena.org/about-us/awards-recognition/lantern-award>

Please contact us at [LanternAward@ena.org](mailto:LanternAward@ena.org) with any questions

### **New**

Application Fee will increase from \$3,000 to \$3,500.

It will be a requirement for each applicant ED to complete the AACN Healthy Work Environment Assessment (Team version) and report the score received, and participation rate into the Lantern application.

<https://www.aacn.org/nursing-excellence/healthy-work-environments/aacn-healthy-work-environment-assessment-tool>

*If you have completed an HWEAT survey anytime in 2025, you may use that score and participation rate in the Cycle 16 Lantern Award application.*

Below is the list of tentative changes:

#### **Assigned Exemplars**

- **Questions A.5, C.4 and C.5 will be deleted.**
- A.6 will remain the same.

#### **Facility Demographics**

- The current 18 demographic questions will remain the same. These questions are not scored and are analyzed by ENA's Research department.
  - Questions B.1, B.2, B.3, B.4, B.6, B.7, B.9 will no longer be scored and may be moved under the Demographic section.

#### **Section A**

- A.1 will remain the same.
- A.3 will remain the same, plus a list of the ED manager/director credentials will be required (credentials will not be scored).
- **A.2 and A.4 will be deleted.**

#### **Section B**

- B.1, B.2, B.3, B.4, B.6, B.7, B.9 will no longer be scored and may be moved under the Demographic section.

- B.5 – will remain the same; with the response word count limit to increase from 300 to 500 words.
- **B.8, B.10 and B.12 will be deleted.**
- B.11 will remain the same.

#### Section C

- **C.1 will be deleted.**
- C.2 will remain the same.

#### Section D

- **D.1, D.2, D.3, D.4, and D.5 will be deleted.**
- Two new questions regarding how your ED promotes a workplace safe from patient/visitor violence and how your ED prevents lateral violence will be added.
- You will provide your HWEAT score and participation rate in this section.

#### Section E

- E.1, E.2 and E.4 will remain the same.
- **E.3 and E.5 will be deleted.**
- Two new questions regarding what strategies are used to address the length of stay for admitted patients and what strategies are used to provide care for patients while they are waiting for inpatient beds will be added.

#### Section F

- **F.1 will be deleted.**
- F.2 will be re-worded, but the intent will remain the same.

#### Section G

- G.1 and G.5 will remain the same.
- **G.2, G.3 and G.4 will be deleted.**
- One new question to describe how your ED supports a culture of safety (definition and characteristics will be provided).

#### Section H

- H.1 and H.2 will be combined into one question to describe strategies for preparation, planning, mitigation, and recovery for staff emergency preparedness.

#### Section I

- I.1, I.3, I.4, I.5 and I.7 will remain the same.
- **I.2 will be deleted.**
- I.6 will be re-worded, but the intent will remain the same.
- Two new questions regarding qualifications/training nurses for triage and validating ongoing nurse competency to perform triage will be added.

#### Section J

- J.1 will be changed from Yes/No for current list to “Provide a bullet point list of all verifications/certifications required in the RN job description.”
- J.2 will remain the same.

#### Section K

- **K.1 and K.2 will be deleted.**
- K.3 question will remain the same; the current list of 14 certifications will be updated to a list of 15, plus an option for “Other.”
  - K.3 will be moved to Section J, and the remaining section names will be moved up by one letter.

#### Section L

- L.1 will remain the same.

#### Section M

- **M.1 and M.2 will be deleted.**
- Two new questions regarding how nurses collaborate with external agencies/ organizations to identify patient care or service needs of a population, and what ED protocols ensure high quality/safe care for behavioral health patients will be added.
- One pediatric readiness question will be added.

#### Section N

- N.1 will remain the same.
- N.2 will ask for one indicator instead of 2-3.
- **N.3 will be deleted.**
- One research/evidence-based practice question will be added.
- N.4-N.7 – instead of all 4 questions highlighting quality metrics (other than those in Sections O, P or Q), two questions should highlight quality metrics, and the other two questions should highlight nursing sensitive indicator initiatives from the NDNQI Nursing Sensitive Indicator list or the Oculi Data Quality Indicators list.
- N.4-N.7 – Responses and four graphs will require data from the last eight quarters, instead of the last four quarters (this is to provide a more comprehensive demonstration of sustained improvements).

*For General/Adult-only EDs only (Pediatric-only hospitals will not have access to these two Sections):*

#### Section O

- O.1 will remain the same

#### Section P

- P.1 will remain the same.

*For Pediatric-only EDs (General/Adult-only EDs will not have access to this Section):*

Section Q

- Q.1 is changing from choosing to respond to 2 of 3 options to separate questions for option 1 and option 3.
  - **Option 2 will be deleted.**
- **Q.2 will be deleted.**