



2026 (Cycle 16) Lantern Award Application Revision Update



Welcome

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Webinar Agenda

- Background, rationale, and process for revision
- Update on application changes
- Time for Q & A

Quick Poll

- 1) How many of you are current Lantern Award recipients?
- 2) How many of you are planning to apply for Lantern Award in the future?
- 3) How many are international recipients or future international applicants?

Background of Lantern Award Program

- Launched in 2011
- Exemplary ED Recognition Work Team
- 5-year development (2005-2010)
- Statistician analysis
- Application timeline: Mid-November → late February
- Fee \$3000

Purpose of Revision

2011



2025

Subject Matter Expert Work Team

- India Owens, MSN, RN, CEN, NE-BC, FAEN
 - Past Chairperson, Original Exemplary ED Award Committee
- Jonathan Green, DNP, MBA, RN, CEN, FACHE
 - Past Chairperson, ED Leadership Committee
- Diane Heine, DNP, MSN, RN, CEN
 - 2025 Lantern Award Committee Chairperson
- Tyler Babcock, MBA, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN, NEA-BC
 - Past Lantern Award Committee Chairperson

What Will Stay the Same?

- Focus on excellence in 5 domains:
 - Leadership-Practice
 - Leadership-Operations
 - Education
 - Advocacy
 - Research/Practice
- Application timeline (November – February)
- Quality metrics (national benchmarks)
- Award recognition period (3 years)

What Will Be Different?

- New requirement: **AACN Healthy Work Environment Assessment Tool**
 - Validated tool based on six HWE standards
 - Complete prior to submitting Lantern application
 - Enter HWEAT “aggregate score” in application
 - Participant rate also scored
 - Random audit process (5% of all recipients)

How To Implement the HWEAT

- 1) Point of contact creates an account on AACN website:
[AACN Healthy Work Environment Assessment Tool](#)
- 2) Select the “Team” version of the survey
- 3) Send the HWE survey to ED staff
- 4) Download your Team Results report



What Will Be Different?

- New topics: Triage, pediatric readiness, behavioral health
- Reduction in questions
 - Overall questions: 83 → 69
 - Narratives and exemplars: 38 → 29
 - Only one assigned staff RN exemplar; no physician exemplar
- Lantern Award resource materials and branding
- Application fee \$3500

