

2025 Governor's Award for Business Excellence

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q: What is the Governor's Award for Business Excellence (GABE)?

A: The GABE award is presented annually to for-profit companies and now non-profits that demonstrate a consistently high level of attentiveness and dedication to its commitment to: Customer Satisfaction and/or Service Excellence; Employees, and Community.

Q: When does the application portal open?

A: The application portal opens September 3, 2025.

Q: When is the application due?

A: Applications may be completed and submitted at any time. Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM ET Friday, October 17, 2025.

Q: Who may apply for the award?

A: For-profit and non-profit companies may self-nominate, or an individual may nominate a business on the business's behalf.

Q: I applied last year but didn't win. Should I apply again this year?

A: Absolutely, please do reapply.

Q: What are the 2025 award categories?

A: The GABE award categories for 2025 are:

Climate Leader Award - Recognizes business leadership, innovation, or excellence in mitigating climate risks or developing new technologies to combat climate change.

Heritage Industry Award - Recognizes business excellence in agriculture, forestry, marine, and manufacturing sectors.

Innovation Award - Recognizes business excellence in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Rural Revitalization Award - Recognizes business excellence that has contributed to the revitalization and growth of one of Maine's rural and/or distressed economic regions.

Non-Profit Organization Award: recognizes an organization that has contributed to their mission and/or community in an outstanding, sustainable way.

Q: How is the award determined?

A: A selection committee will be reviewing applications. The quality of the nomination will have a direct impact on how the company will be evaluated. Be sure your nomination reflects your best effort and "tells the story" of the company you are nominating.

Q: Why didn't I receive a confirmation email after I submitted my application?

A: Please check your spam/junk email folder and your settings. A confirmation email will be sent from noreply@maine.gov with the subject line "Governor's Award for Business Excellence Nomination."

If, after doing so, you feel as though the application was not submitted, please email BizAwards@maine.gov.

Q: When will applicants be notified if they have been selected for an award?

A: All applicants will be contacted sometime this fall regarding the selection outcome. Details about an award ceremony will be announced by the Governor's Office at a later date.

Q: If I am having trouble with the online application, who can I reach out to for assistance?

A: Please email: BizAwards.DECD@maine.gov with any questions.

Q: Can I submit the application in a different format than the online portal?

A: If you need any help with the application process, instructions, or need assistance with translation or digital processes, please email BizAwards.DECD@maine.gov or call 1-800-872-3838.