



2026 ACGME David C. Leach Award Frequently Asked Questions



Why did the ACGME establish the David C. Leach Award?

In honor of the former ACGME Executive Director (1997-2007) David C. Leach, MD, and his contributions to resident/fellow education and well-being, the ACGME created this award in 2008, with the first recipients awarded in 2010.

Who is eligible?

- Residents or fellows who are *currently* in an ACGME-accredited graduate medical education (residency or fellowship) program (“current” as identified by the ACGME and its Review Committees in its official roster of residents/fellows)
 - Note: The project leader **must be** a current resident/fellow at the time of nomination submission in the program where the project was performed
- Faculty members *with* residents or fellows
- Multidisciplinary teams that include faculty members, residents/fellows, allied health professionals, and others and that feature resident/fellow involvement
- **Note: Past recipients of the Lewis Blackman Patient Safety Award or a Back to Bedside grant are not eligible to receive the David C. Leach Award.**

Who can submit a nomination?

- Program directors
- Designated institutional officials (DIOs)
- Review Committee members
- Program coordinators

How are nominations submitted?

Download the Nomination Form from the ACGME website, complete it, and submit it along with three **signed** support letters according to the directions on the form. All materials (Nomination Form and support letters) must arrive by email in **one** PDF. To do this, assemble all materials and scan them, then email the resulting PDF to Ms. Bonasera. **Material received in piecemeal or that includes unsigned letters will not be accepted.** Direct any questions to DeLonda Bonasera: dbonasera@acgme.org or 312.755.5059.

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations must be emailed before **5:00 p.m. Central on Wednesday, March 12, 2025**. Nominations received after the deadline and/or submitted in piecemeal will not be considered.

How many awards will be given?

Up to five residents/fellows or teams will be selected to receive the award.



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What is awarded?

Awardees will receive \$2,500 cash award and a plaque.

- If a team wins, the team members will share the cash award and the team will receive one plaque. The project leader will receive the cash award and plaque on behalf of the team. Only the project leader (*who must be a resident or fellow*) and one guest will travel courtesy of the ACGME to the 2026 ACGME Annual Educational Conference. The 2026 conference will take place on February 19-21 in San Diego, California.
- An individual winner will receive the entire cash award and plaque, and the awardee and a guest will travel courtesy of the ACGME to the 2026 Annual Educational Conference.
- Conference registration will be waived for the project leader only.

When will the award winners be announced?

Selections will be made by the ACGME Awards Committee at its fall 2025 meeting, and shortly thereafter recipients will be notified. Award announcements will then be published in a press release, the *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*, and the ACGME *e-Communication*, as well as on the ACGME website and social media accounts.

When will the award be presented?

Awards will be presented at the 2026 ACGME Annual Educational Conference.