



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

251 Agencies Earn 2026 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement® Award from National Procurement Institute

The National Procurement Institute, Inc. (NPI) proudly announces that 251 public and nonprofit agencies have earned the prestigious *Achievement of Excellence in Procurement*® (AEP) Award for 2026. This award recognizes organizational excellence in public procurement through a rigorous evaluation of innovation, professionalism, productivity, leadership, and e-procurement practices.

This year's program reached historic milestones with a record-breaking 269 applications, representing 28 U.S. states and Canada, and an unprecedented 93% success rate.

Among the 251 successful applicants, a record-breaking 42 are first-time recipients, highlighting the continued expansion of best-in-class procurement practices. Notably, four agencies—City of Plano, TX; City of Tucson, AZ; Denton County, TX; and Orange County, FL—have earned the award every year since its inception, demonstrating three decades of unwavering leadership in procurement excellence.

NPI extends its sincere appreciation to the 84 volunteers who served on the AEP Evaluation Team and Appeal Panel. Their dedication, expertise, and countless hours of review were essential in maintaining the integrity and success of the award program.

“The 2026 AEP Award reflects the extraordinary commitment of procurement professionals who are driving performance, accountability, and strategic value for their agencies,” said Carrie Mathes, FNIGP, CFCM, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, C.P.M., CPPB, APP, FCCM, AEP Officer for NPI. “This year's record participation and new milestones are a testament to the growing recognition of procurement as a critical function in public service.”

Established in 1995, the AEP Award is open to all public and nonprofit organizations. The program's comprehensive criteria promote continuous improvement and elevate procurement as a vital contributor to good governance.

To view the full list of 2026 recipients visit <https://www.npi-aep.org/award-recipients> and to learn more about the AEP Award, visit <https://www.npi-aep.org/aep-award>.