



2025 ABC NEW JERSEY Excellence in Construction® Awards Project Entry Requirements and Forms

Associated Builders and Contractors of New Jersey invites your company to enter its best projects in the 2025 ABC National Excellence in Construction Awards competition.

NOTE:

This document serves as a tool to help applicants gather and prepare data for the 2025 application. All applications must be submitted electronically at [ABC New Jersey EIC](#)

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Program Overview

Your company has the opportunity to compete for honors in the construction industry's premier annual awards program, the ABC New Jersey Excellence in Construction Awards competition—that recognizes the outstanding merit shop projects of the year. Use this application and the enclosed forms to enter your company's best project(s).

All award winners will be recognized at the Annual Excellence in Construction Awards gala on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at Liberty House, Jersey City. The ceremony will feature a multimedia presentation highlighting the Excellence Winners and their award-winning projects.

Entry Requirements

Each entry must follow the entry requirements outlined in this award application. Email questions to dhart@abcnjc.org

ABC Membership

Only ABC contractor members are eligible to enter. Projects completed through a joint venture must include a document outlining the ownership percentage and responsibilities of each partner. Include the document with the Project Information section. If the majority partner is an ABC member, but not all partners are ABC members, only the majority contractor is eligible to enter. If your project was completed by a joint venture and not all parties are ABC members, email dhart@abcnjc.org for additional eligibility requirements.

Safety Policy

A company that experiences a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within the current program year* is NOT eligible for an Excellence in Construction Award. If a subsidiary is a direct ABC member versus part of a larger holding company member, then the subsidiary with a safety-related fatality is not eligible, but another subsidiary of the same holding company may be. Furthermore, all EIC award winners have a continuing duty to inform ABC of a safety-related fatality that occurred after the end of the current program year until the time of the awards program. Such a fatality will nullify the EIC award. After the judging process and prior to the awards program, ABC will request that an award winner confirm that a safety-related fatality did not occur. Failure to respond to the request will also nullify the EIC award.

A company that experienced a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within two or three years of the current program year* is required to provide additional information regarding action that has been taken following the fatality.

No project that involves prime, multi-prime or sub-trade contractors with a safety-related fatality is eligible to be considered for an award.

If there is a question regarding this policy and application requirement, the applicant may request clarification from the National EIC Committee by emailing eic@abc.org prior to submission of the project.

*See Safety Requirements for additional details and program dates.

Project Entry Deadlines

- **Completion of Project** – Projects must be completed by Friday, September 5, 2025
- **Online Project Registration** – Projects must be registered online no later than Friday, September 5, 2025.
- **Submission Deadline** – Entries must be completed online no later than Friday, September 5, 2025.
- **Project Entry Fee** – Each project must be submitted online payment in the amount of \$175. Checks made payable to ABC New Jersey and mailed to 139 Gaither Drive, Suite I, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. The entry fee is non-refundable.

Overview of Awards

Categories

Awards may be presented in 61 categories. The 37 categories for General Contracting/Construction Management are outlined on page 10 of this document. The 24 categories for Specialty Contracting are outlined on page 11 of this document. For further descriptions of each category, visit abc.org/eic.

Scoring

The panel of judges represents a cross section of construction industry experts, including owners, architects, engineers and other industry leaders. The competition is comparative, using a point system to assist in the comparisons. A project entry can earn a total possible score of 100 points. The different evaluative sections and their point values are in the subsequent sections below. Answers to questions should be clear and succinct, as directed; be sure to read each section carefully. The applying company's ability to follow the guidelines will have a great impact on its opportunity to win.

Excellence Award

Projects that receive first place in their category will receive an Excellence Award. Award winners will receive a specially designed eagle sculpture to signify construction's highest honor.

Requirements: Intent-to-Compete/Registration

- ❖ Company
- ❖ Project title
- ❖ Project location (city, state if in the United States)
- ❖ Final contract amount (ABC will keep the information confidential, if required)
- ❖ Project category
- ❖ Applicant name, job title, phone and email
- ❖ Submit non-refundable submission fee: \$500 per entry or \$350 for first time entry

Requirements: Overall Presentation (5 points)

Overall Presentation and Conformance to Entry Requirements

Uploaded documents should be pleasing to the eye and legible. Points will be deducted for font that is too small to easily read, as well as grammatical/typographical errors.

Requirements: Project Information

- ❖ Contractor name, principal, title, email, mailing address and phone
- ❖ Business ownership: women-owned / minority-owned / women- AND minority-owned / not applicable
- ❖ Company logo
- ❖ Primary award contact name, title, direct phone or cell and email
- ❖ Is this project in the United States? Provide the project address, including the country if applicable
- ❖ Did any prime, multi-prime, or sub-trade contractor on this project have a safety-related fatality on this project?
If yes, the project is not eligible.
- ❖ Did the applying member company have a safety-related fatality in the United States with the current program year—**Sept 1, 2024-Sept 1, 2024**? If yes, the company is not eligible.
- ❖ Firm name, contact name, title and email for the architect, engineer, general contractor and client/owner
- ❖ Was this project completed by a joint venture? If yes, are all parties of the joint venture members of ABC? On a one-page document, outline the ownership percentage and responsibilities of each partner.
- ❖ Was this a design-build project, with design and construction services under one contract with a single point of responsibility?
- ❖ Was this a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) project through the U.S. Green Building Council? If yes, indicate the status of the LEED certification and what level was achieved.
- ❖ Write a brief project description between 30 and 40 words highlighting the most impressive/unique aspects of the job.

Requirements: Contracted Scope (10 points)

Ensuring legibility when selecting font design and size, provide a one-page description of the scope for this project in PDF format with the below information. Samples may be viewed at abc.org/eic.

- Type of construction (i.e. Lump Sum, Time & Materials, Construction Management at Risk, Cost Plus, etc.)
- Size of project
- Contract value
- Duration of project
- Percentage of labor that is self-performed
- Any subcontracted work performed by fellow ABC members, suppliers or associates/industry professionals, if applicable.
- Describe the opportunities you provided to the construction community to participate based on merit.

Provide contact information using the Excel template for any subcontracted work performed on this project, including contractors, suppliers, associates/industry professionals. Be sure to note if the company is an ABC member.

Requirements: Project Narrative (30 points)

Ensuring legibility when selecting font design and size, provide a written narrative (no more than four pages*) indicating why this project is special and why it qualifies for a national award. The focus of the narrative should be the construction (i.e. erection, installation, modification, grade footprint, etc.) of the project. Four pages are highly recommended and photos/images may be incorporated. Be sure to include the following items:

- Describe any innovative programs relating to quality control
- Describe any innovative programs relating to scheduling
- Describe any value analysis/engineering process used on the project
- Indicate any special obstacles you overcame in completing the project
- Describe any difficulties or extenuating circumstances encountered in completing the project
 - For multisite projects (i.e. coordinated projects that take place in multiple site locations under one contracted scope), describe logistics, sequencing, and safety challenges overcome across multiple sites especially if the sites remained open for business during performance of the work.
- Describe any innovative programs or methods relating to productivity (see bonus award section on page 8 of this application guide)

PDF format is required.

Requirements: Photographs (8 points)

Submit up to 10 high-quality photographs in *jpg or png format only*. It is recommended to include photos that are relevant to the challenges and solutions outlined in the narrative. To obtain maximum points, all projects should include “in progress” photos in addition to the completed project. Restoration and Renovation projects should also include “before and after” images.

- Single jpg files may include up to two photographs, but no more than four files should include split images.
- Provide a descriptive caption for each file in the text box provided, but keep the photograph free of any labels, captions and borders/framing. Each caption should not exceed 50 words.
- Ensure the photographs are free of any safety violations.
- Ten photographs are strongly recommended. Files should be a minimum of 300 DPI resolution and in jpg format. No PDFs are allowed.

Occasionally, entrants have asked that certain photos not be used in programs or on public sites, due to certain sensitivities, such as the exterior layout of an embassy. Indicate if any of the photos submitted meet this condition and specify which ones must remain private.

If any photos being submitted were taken by a third-party photographer, the photographer’s written authorization to use the photos is required. In order to comply, you must upload a copy of the signed licensing agreement found on at abc.org/eic with the photographer’s signature. No changes are allowed to this document.

Requirements: Safety (31 points)

A company that experiences a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within the current program year—Sept 1, 2024-Sept 1, 2025—is NOT eligible for an Excellence in Construction Award. If a subsidiary is a direct ABC member versus part of a larger holding company member, then the subsidiary with a safety-related fatality is not eligible, but another subsidiary of the same holding company may be. Furthermore, all EIC award winners have a continuing duty to inform ABC of a safety-related fatality that occurred after the end of the current program year until the time of the awards program. Such a fatality will nullify the EIC award. After the judging process and prior to the awards program, ABC will request that an award winner confirm that a safety-related fatality did not occur. Failure to respond to the request will also nullify the EIC award.

A company that experienced a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within two or three years of the current program year is required to provide additional information regarding action that has been taken following the fatality (details on the next page).

Requirements: Safety continued

No project that involves a prime, multi-prime, subcontractor or any trade-related work (regardless of the type of contract) with a safety-related fatality is eligible for an Excellence in Construction Award.

If there is a question regarding these eligibility requirements, the applicant should request clarification from the National EIC committee prior to submission by emailing eic@abc.org.

- ❖ Did the applying company have a safety-related fatality within the current program year—Sept 1, 2024-Sept 1, 2025? **If yes, your company is not eligible.**
- ❖ Did your company have a safety-related fatality within two or three years of the current program year—Sept 1, 2024-Sept 1, 2025. If yes, answer the questions below.
 - What was the violation type as determined by OSHA (i.e. Willful, Serious, Repeated, Other-than-serious, No violation was cited)?
 - Date and location of incident
 - Were there any fines, citations or penalties issued? If so, by whom (i.e. OSHA, Police, DOT, etc.)?
 - Provide a written report up to five pages that details the following:
 - A full account of the incident and the investigation
 - What corrective actions were taken immediately?
 - What corrective actions were taken culturally?
 - How was accountability addressed?
 - What procedural changes were made?
 - Was an overall evaluation of the company's safety policies, and if so, what changes were made?
 - If the fatality occurred three years out from this program year—Sept 1, 2020-Sept 1 2021, provide details as to how your company has implemented the changes discussed above and how it has affected the overall safety performance.
- ❖ Did this project have a safety-related fatality? **If yes, this project is not eligible.**
- ❖ Include copies of the project-specific OSHA Form 300 and OSHA Form 300A for your company. If project-specific forms are not available, you may include completed forms for all the year(s) the project was under construction, including a year-to-date form if the contract was completed in the current program year. If you are submitting annual forms, they must be specific to the office location that completed the work and all recordables specific to the project being submitted must be highlighted. **All personal information must be redacted. If omitted, your company is not eligible.**
- ❖ Has your company signed the Construction Coalition for a Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace's pledge at drugfreeconstruction.org? **If no, your company is not eligible.**
- ❖ Does your company have a written Safety and Health Policy Manual? If yes, include its table of contents or provide a one-page summary. **If no, your company is not eligible.**
- ❖ Does your company have a written substance abuse policy? If yes, provide a copy of the table of contents and explain how it was implemented on the project.
- ❖ Was a site-specific Safety and Health Policy Manual developed for this project? If yes, include its table of contents or provide a one-page summary.
- ❖ Provide the project's organizational chart identifying the person responsible for safety.
- ❖ Does your company conduct a new employee safety orientation? If yes, include a copy of the agenda.
- ❖ Were toolbox safety meetings held with employees? If yes, were these meetings documented and what was the frequency of meetings? Include a one-page summary or an example up to two pages.
- ❖ Did your company regularly establish pre-task safety planning prior to beginning work on this project? If yes, provide at least one example.
- ❖ Did your company have a process in place to record near-miss cases on this project? If yes, provide supporting documentation of this process and how your company uses this information. Note this does not indicate near-misses occurred.
- ❖ Was specialized training conducted on this project? If yes, indicate types on a separate page.
- ❖ Provide additional information regarding any innovative safety and health programs used on this project or the company's overall safety program.
- ❖ Calculate your company's Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) = Number of recordable accidents x 200,000 / total manhours for the project
 - Total work hours for all disciplines included in your contract on this project
 - Company NAICS and SIC codes
 - Number of OSHA-recordable accidents on this project
 - Number of OSHA job transfer or restriction cases on this project

Requirements: Safety continued

- Number of OSHA days away from work cases on this project
*General contractors and construction managers also must include all subcontractors' hours and recordables on this project.
- ❖ For general contractors or construction managers: Do you require accident reports from specialty contractors? If yes, provide information on the process.
- ❖ Provide the name, title, phone, email and signature for the person responsible for safety on this project and attesting to these accident rates.

Requirements: References (10 points)

Include up to 10 letters of recommendation from third parties involved with the project, such as the owner and design team. If the owner is unable to provide a letter of recommendation due to company policy, upload a letter from the owner on their letterhead stating they are unable to provide a reference (this letter will qualify for only five points). PDF format is required.

General contractors *must* submit letters from at least the owner (or the general contractor's prime contracting entity, if not the owner) and the architect. If submitting in an industrial category, general contractors must submit letters from at least the owner (or the general contractor's prime contracting entity).

Specialty contractors *must* submit a letter from at least the general contractor. If not working under a general contractor, specialty contractors must submit a letter from at least the owner. Second- and third-tier subcontractors must at least submit a letter from their prime contracting entity.

Letters will be assessed for their level of quality (content and position of author). In some cases, a single letter could earn the maximum number of points; however, additional letters are highly recommended.

Opportunities: Supplemental Materials (2 points)

Provide any miscellaneous supporting materials, such as diagrams and other graphics, media coverage, other awards and promotion, aerial or drone footage, BIM, 3D scans and/or CAD drawings. You may upload up to five single pages. The five pages may be in one file, or up to five separate files. Video files should not exceed two minutes.

Opportunities: Accredited Quality Contractor (AQC) (2 points)

If your company has achieved ABC's Accredited Quality Contractor (AQC) credential in the current program year, upload a PDF copy of the company certificate. The certificate must indicate the chapter that you are submitting your project through because the AQC credential is chapter specific. If necessary, a copy of the certificate may be requested by emailing aqc@abc.org. Please note that requests will be processed in the order in which they are received; be sure to put your request in early.

The AQC credential is not required to submit for an Excellence in Construction award.

For more information about the AQC program, visit abc.org/aqc or email aqc@abc.org.

Opportunities: STEP Safety Management System® (2 points)

If your company is a STEP participant, upload a PDF copy of the company certificate(s) from this year, as well as any year(s) the project was performed.

If your company does not have an electronic copy of your STEP certificate(s), contact step@abc.org and copy eic@abc.org. Please note requests will be processed in the order in which they are received; be sure to submit your request early.

Opportunities: STEP Safety Management System® continued

STEP participation is not required to submit a project for an Excellence in Construction Award.

For more information about STEP, visit abc.org/step or email step@abc.org.

Social Media & Entry Samples

Social Media

ABC promotes EIC winners on social media (e.g. Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter). A photo from the entry is typically included, with the company name, project name and category. The projects are generally featured after the awards gala and throughout the program year. If your project is awarded, would you like for your company and project to be featured on ABC's social media accounts?

Entry Sample Release

Members often request samples of EIC applications. In order to assist those applying for the first time in future years, we would like to have winning samples available. If your project is awarded, can ABC share your project narrative and/or contracted scope with future year applicants and on the EIC webpage?

If you indicated the use of innovative safety programs and your project was awarded, may these programs be included in a list of best practices posted on the EIC webpage?

Project Entry Qualifications, Rights and Agreement

All applicants are required to sign off on the following releases.

Property

All entries become the property of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC).

Entry Category Reassignment

ABC reserves the right to change an entry's original category if it determines that a project's opportunity to win will be enhanced with a different category. ABC also reserves the right to redistribute the contract volume levels within a category.

Grant of Rights

The applicant hereby grants to ABC the following non-exclusive rights: the right to reproduce and distribute copies of the work throughout the year as part of the competition materials described above, including the right to reprint the work, or any part thereof, whenever necessary and to license the use of the work, or any part thereof, in any medium or form of communication; and the right to use the applicant's name, photographs and biography in connection with the work. The applicant reserves all rights not specifically granted herein.

Safety Provision

No project that involves a prime, multi-prime, subcontractor or any trade-related work (regardless of the type of contract) with a safety-related fatality is eligible for an award. No company that experiences a safety-related fatality of a direct employee in the United States within the current program year is eligible for an award. Furthermore, all EIC award winners have a continuing duty to inform ABC of a safety-related fatality that occurred after the end of the current program year until the time of the awards program. Such a fatality will nullify the EIC award.

Warranty

The applicant warrants that the work is original, that its publication will not infringe on the rights of others, and that it has the full power to make this grant.

Notification and News Releases

ABC Eastern PA Excellence in Construction Award winners will be notified by Friday, September 12, 2025. News releases will be held until after the awards ceremony takes place November 6, 2025, Presidential Caterers, Norristown, PA. Until that time, the winners' information is embargoed.

Applicant Agreement

I understand the entry fee is non-refundable.

I hereby give permission to Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) to use the photographs and any information submitted to the ABC National Excellence in Construction Awards competition in ABC awards materials, including presentations and printed matter, as well as promotional materials and news releases.

Project Award Category Form – General Contracting/Construction Management

You may select only ONE category indicating the dollar amount of the contract for the project.

ABC reserves the right to change an entry's original category if it determines that a project's opportunity to win will be enhanced in a different category. ABC also reserves the right to redistribute the contract volume levels within a category.

Commercial

Office buildings, banks, retail facilities, hotels and mixed-use

- Under \$1 Million
- \$1 Million-\$5 Million
- \$5 Million-\$10 Million
- \$10 Million-\$25 Million
- Over \$25 Million

Historical Restoration / Renovation

Restoration of buildings registered as historical, or eligible to be registered as Historical.

- Less Than \$10 Million
- \$10 Million-\$25 Million
- \$25 Million-\$100 Million

Industrial

Manufacturing plants and facilities, refineries and similar types of construction

- Under \$2 Million
- \$2 Million-\$5 Million
- \$5 Million-\$15 Million
- \$15 Million- \$25 Million
- \$25 Million- \$100 Million

Federal Government / Military

Manufacturing plants and facilities, refineries and similar types of construction

- Under \$10 Million
- \$10 Million-\$50 Million
- \$5 Million-\$15 Million
- \$50 Million- \$100 Million

Infrastructure: Heavy

Streets, highways, parks, dams and bridges

- Up to \$100 Million

Institutional

Projects owned by schools, churches and local governments, with the exception of health care facilities

- Under \$1 Million
- \$1 Million-\$5 Million
- \$5 Million-\$10 Million
- \$10 Million-\$25 Million
- Over \$25 Million

Pre-engineered Building

Institutional, shopping centers, banks and manufacturing plants

- Up to \$100 Million

Community / Public Service

Projects Donated by contractor

- Up to \$100 Million

Health Care

- Under \$10 Million
- \$10 Million-\$25 Million
- \$25 Million-\$100 Million

Public Works / Environmental

Water treatment plants and sewage treatment plants

- Up to \$100 Million

Renovation

Non-historical, existing buildings where more than 50 percent of the contracted dollar value was used for renovation or restoration

- Under \$1 Million
- \$1 Million-\$4 Million
- \$4 Million-\$10 Million
- Over \$10 Million

Residential

Residential, including independent living retirement communities

- Up to \$100 Million

Other Construction

- Under \$1 Million
- \$2 Million-\$10 Million
- \$10 Million-\$100 Million

Project Award Category Form – Specialty Contracting

You may select only ONE category indicating the dollar amount of the contract for the project.

ABC reserves the right to change an entry's original category if it determines that a project's opportunity to win will be enhanced by the change to the new category. ABC also reserves the right to redistribute the contract volume levels within a category.

Electrical: Commercial

Schools, hospitals, outdoor lighting, institutional, shopping centers

- Under \$1 Million
- \$1 Million-\$3 Million
- \$3 Million -\$5 Million
- \$5 Million-\$10 Million

Electrical: Industrial

Manufacturing plants, processing plants, instrumentation and testing facilities involving motor control

- Under \$1 Million
- \$1 Million-\$3 Million
- \$3 Million -\$5 Million
- \$5 Million-\$10 Million

Mechanical: Commercial Schools, hospitals, institutional, shopping centers

- Under \$1 Million
- \$1 Million-\$3 Million
- \$3 Million -\$5 Million
- \$5 Million-\$10 Million

Mechanical: Industrial

Manufacturing plants, processing plants and pneumatic controls

- Under \$1 Million
- \$1 Million-\$3 Million
- \$3 Million -\$5 Million
- \$5 Million-\$10 Million

Exterior Finishes

All Contract Amounts

Interior Finishes

All Contract Amounts

Other Specialty Construction: Commercial

- Under \$5 Million
- \$5 Million-\$10 Million
- \$10 Million and Above

Other Specialty Construction: Industrial

- Under \$5 Million
- \$5 Million-\$10 Million
- \$10 Million and Above

Specific questions may be directed to the ABC National office by sending an email to eic@abc.org. Frequently asked questions and application tips are listed at abc.org/eic.

