



Announcing the Florida City and County Management Association (FCCMA) 2026 Awards Program

Each year, the FCCMA recognizes leaders in the profession who have demonstrated professionalism and service within the field of public administration. Award recipients are nominated and selected by their peers and recognized during the annual conference.

Award Categories

The **Richard (Dick) Simmons Lifetime Achievement Award** is awarded to an exemplary individual who has served the profession or the FCCMA with steadfast dedication, innovation, and the highest standard of excellence. This award is a memorial to Dick Simmons – a pioneer in the profession, past FCCMA President, range rider emeritus, and a 60+ year FCCMA member. To be eligible for consideration for this prestigious award, an individual must be nominated by a full or life member of the FCCMA and meet the following criteria:

- ▶ A minimum of 30 years working in local government, with at least 15 years at the level of Assistant City/County Manager or higher. Working in local government includes employment by a higher education institution providing relevant training to local government employees
- ▶ A member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and FCCMA, in good standing

- ▶ Demonstrated member of ICMA and commensurate state management association(s) for at least 20 years
- ▶ Demonstrated active participation in state management associations over his or her career
- ▶ Made contributions over one's lifetime in the likeness of Richard (Dick) Simmons

The **Michael (Mike) J. Roberto Award for Career Development** recognizes an FCCMA member who has made a significant contribution to the development of new talent in professional local government management (internships, mentoring, etc.). This award is a memorial to Mike Roberto, a past President of the FCCMA and a recognized leader in the development of public management careers. Nomination must be made by a full or life member of FCCMA.

The **Professional Management Excellence Award** recognizes an outstanding local government administrator who has fostered representative democracy by enhancing the effectiveness of local elected officials and by consistently initiating creative and successful programs. The nomination must be endorsed by a past or present elected official.

The **Assistant for Excellence in Leadership Award** is awarded to an FCCMA member who has

demonstrated excellence in leadership while serving as an assistant (regardless of title) to a chief local government administrator or department head. Nominees must be full-time employees and the nomination must be endorsed by their Chief Administrative Officer.

The **Rising Star Award** recognizes local government leaders in Florida with less than 10 years of city or county government experience for their personal and professional excellence. Those selected are among the industry's top emerging talent and will be an integral part of the FCCMA and local government administration for years to come. Nominees must be an FCCMA member with a minimum of two years in good standing, as well as be a current local government employee. Nomination can be self-nominated but must include a letter of recommendation from a supervisor or peer at the director level or above.

Nominators for each award must submit a completed application, cover letter, and any supporting materials by **5:00 p.m. ET on January 12, 2026**, to be considered for these awards. For specific selection criteria and required documentation, and to complete the application, please visit fccma.org. For questions, please contact staff at fccma@flcities.com.