

2026 Best Culture Awards Presented by Kudos® *How to Prepare for Your Application*

Applications open: July 6, 2026

Applications due: September 30, 2026

More info can be found at: <https://www.kudos.com/kudos-awards>

★ Award Categories

Culture of the Year: One winner selected by the awards committee. Must meet all Culture Leader criteria, plus demonstrate exceptional, measurable strides in workplace culture over the past year.

Culture Leader: For organizations with a demonstrated commitment to great workplace culture, strong employee feedback, quality engagement initiatives, and measurable results. Minimum 90% activation and 80% reach on the Kudos platform.

Culture Innovator: For organizations taking a creative or unique approach to building culture through Kudos, with leadership commitment and positive employee feedback. Minimum 80% activation and 70% reach.

Recertification (for past winners): Past award winners can recertify with a shorter, simplified application (same category only and excludes Culture of the Year.)

🏆 What Winners Receive

- Digital award badge for your website
- Inclusion in Kudos' press release and social media posts
- Featured case study on Kudos.com (optional)
- Custom social media graphics and a communications package
- Exclusive Kudos platform assets
- Enhanced employer brand and EVP

👉 9 Metrics of Positive Culture Change & Impact to Use in Your Application

1. **Fewer Regrettable Resignations:** Are you keeping your best people? Regrettable resignations are when people you did not want to go, leave.
2. **Turnover:** Consider all departures. Are you experiencing lower turnover and/or is it trending in a positive direction? Are you hitting your retention goals?
3. **Absenteeism:** Fewer unplanned sick days taken (an indicator of employee well-being.)
4. **eNPS:** Are you seeing improvements in employee sentiment and/or a more consistent high score in your desired range?
5. **Referrals:** Has the number of employee referrals for new hires increased?
6. **Feedback:** Has your team score in surveys around feeling valued and appreciated improved and trending in the right direction?
7. **Performance:** Has your company/departments hit more of your goals consistently?
8. **Exit interviews:** Have people's reasons for leaving changed? (External vs. Internal reasons)
9. **Accolades and Awards:** Have you been recognized as a 'best place to work' or leader in your sector? Do you think your culture and commitment to recognition contributed to that?