



Living the Dream Award Nomination Form

The Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission is accepting names of persons and organizations in consideration for the “**Living the Dream**” awards. The awards will be presented on Monday, January 19, 2026 as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance.

Five individual awards, and up to three Service Organization awards will be given to those who best exemplify, through action, and/or personal traits, the principles and ideals characterizing Dr. King in his pursuit of social change. The six categories and criteria are:

I. Advocate of Peace: A person who has been an advocate of social change in a non-violent way.

II. Sharing of Self: A person who has rendered to others in the public or private sector.

III. Human and Civil Rights: A person who has been actively involved in the pursuit of equality for others; an advocate for social change.

IV. Scholarship: A person who has made significant contributions in education.

V. Governor’s Living the Dream Award: A person who best exemplifies all the characteristics of justice, scholarship, sharing of self, human and civil rights, and advocacy of peace; with a recognizable sense of civic awareness and public service.

VI. Service Organization Honor Roll: Qualifying organizations must have demonstrated one or more of the principles for which Dr. King stood: the promotion of human and civil rights, aiding underserved communities, promotion of tolerance, and resolving conflict in a nonviolent manner.

Complete nomination packets must include:

1. A brief typewritten statement (no more than one page) that discusses the qualities of the nominee that best meets the standard of a specific award category.
2. A one-page biography with a color picture of the candidate or mission statement/activities of the organization.
3. Materials (e.g., newspaper articles) that describe the nominee’s community involvement.
4. The category in which the nominee is nominated.
5. Submissions by USPS mail, e-mail and/or fax must have a postmark or date stamp no later than 5:00 p.m. on **December 1, 2025**.

NOMINATION FORM

Name of Candidate or Organization:

Address of Candidate or

Organization: _____

Candidate or Organization Phone Number: _____

Candidate/ or Organization Email:

Nominator's Name: _____

Nominator's Address _____

Nominator's Telephone _____

Nominator's Email

Submit Complete Nomination Packet via USPS, Email or Fax to:

MLK, Jr. State Holiday Commission
Chairperson Jill Upson
State Capitol, Building 1, Room 9R 1900
Kanawha Boulevard
Charleston, WV 25305
Fax: 304.558.1201

Email: Jill.S.Upson@wv.gov

Web: <https://minorityaffairs.wv.gov/MLKCommission/Pages/default.aspx>

***Please Note: Only complete (i.e., including nomination form and supporting documents) nomination packets will be considered. Confirmation of receipt of nominations will be made via email. Please contact the MLK Commission if receipt of nomination has not been confirmed by 12/2/25 ***