



2026 Outstanding Credit Union of the Year (LAS)

Nominees:

1. [FreeStar Financial Credit Union](#)
2. [People Driven Credit Union](#)
3. [Public Service Credit Union](#)

Award Overview

The Outstanding Credit Union of the Year Award recognizes a Michigan credit union that has been exceptionally supportive of the credit union industry on a local, chapter, and statewide level over the past year. This award honors a credit union that has gone above and beyond in advocacy, performance, innovation, and service, while demonstrating a sustained commitment to affecting positive change across the credit union movement.

Outstanding Credit Union of the Year – Judges Overview

Thank you for serving as a judge for the MCUL Outstanding Credit Union of the Year Award. As you review the nomination materials, please focus on **overall organizational impact during the past year**, including **industry involvement, advocacy, innovation, financial performance, member service, and community engagement**.

Judges are encouraged to consider both **measurable results and qualitative impact**, and to evaluate how effectively each credit union demonstrates leadership and excellence across multiple areas. Please use the full scoring range and rely on **clear evidence, outcomes, and documented examples** when assigning scores.

To support consistency and ease of review, this packet includes a scoring rubric and supplemental guidance outlining suggested scoring ranges and evaluation tips for each section. If you have any questions please contact Rick Weaver (rick.weaver@mcul.org) or Shawn Glinis (shawn.glinis@mcul.org).

 [Judges Scoring Guidance](#)



FreeStar Financial Credit Union

[Application Documents](#)

[Click here to access the online scorecard](#)

| Application Components A nomination letter must describe in brief detail how some or all of the award criteria were met through: | Requirements | Possible Points | Score |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Measurable Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter involvement and innovation ● Pioneering and innovative efforts across the industry ● Community impact and volunteering efforts ● Financial literacy efforts ● Consistent record of advocacy | 2 pages max | 40 | |
| Credit Union Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial strength and performance ● New and improved services to members ● New activities or programs | 2 pages max | 25 | |
| Additional Credit Union Efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public relations marketing | 1 pages max | 10 | |
| Letters of recommendation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide letters of support that address the author’s first-hand knowledge of the nominee in relation to all of the award criteria listed above. | 2-5 letters max | 25 | |
| Total | | 100 | |



People Driven Credit Union

[Application Documents](#)

[Click here to access the online scorecard](#)

| Application Components A nomination letter must describe in brief detail how some or all of the award criteria were met through: | Requirements | Possible Points | Score |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Measurable Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter involvement and innovation ● Pioneering and innovative efforts across the industry ● Community impact and volunteering efforts ● Financial literacy efforts ● Consistent record of advocacy | 2 pages max | 40 | |
| Credit Union Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial strength and performance ● New and improved services to members ● New activities or programs | 2 pages max | 25 | |
| Additional Credit Union Efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public relations marketing | 1 pages max | 10 | |
| Letters of recommendation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide letters of support that address the author’s first-hand knowledge of the nominee in relation to all of the award criteria listed above. | 2-5 letters max | 25 | |
| Total | | 100 | |
| Comments: | | | |



Public Service Credit Union

[Application Documents](#)

[Click here to access the online scorecard](#)

| Application Components | Requirements | Possible Points | Score |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| A nomination letter must describe in brief detail how some or all of the award criteria were met through: | | | |
| Measurable Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter involvement and innovation ● Pioneering and innovative efforts across the industry ● Community impact and volunteering efforts ● Financial literacy efforts ● Consistent record of advocacy | 2 pages max | 40 | |
| Credit Union Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial strength and performance ● New and improved services to members ● New activities or programs | 2 pages max | 25 | |
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| Total | | 100 | |
| Comments: | | | |