National Council Awards of Excellence

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the deadline for submitting an award?
The application deadline has been extended to Friday, November 18.

What are the Awards categories?
The 2017 Awards of Excellence categories honor both individuals and organizations. If you’re not certain which category is best for your nomination, contact Awards Support at 866.362.0505 or Awards@TheNationalCouncil.org.

- **Champions of Excellence**: Recognizes an organization or program that promotes professional development in the behavioral health field with respect to retention strategies, diversity and training structure.
- **Doc of the Year**: Recognizes a psychiatrist or physician who has gone above and beyond the call of duty, empowering patients to define their own goals and providing the encouragement and support to help them achieve their dreams.
- **Excellence in Addictions Treatment**: Recognizes an organization that has provided effective addictions education and prevention programs in the community or improved treatment outcomes for people with addictions disorders through innovative, science-based programs and services.
- **Excellence in Advocacy (Individual or Organizational)**: Honors an individual or organization that has demonstrated exemplary efforts and results over the last 12 months advocating for legislative or regulatory policies that increase access to mental health and substance use services.
- **Excellence in Advocacy by an Elected Official**: Honors a state or local elected official who has demonstrated exemplary efforts and results over the last 12 months promoting behavioral health policies that increase access to mental health and substance use services.
- **Excellence in Artistic Expression**: Recognizes an individual with lived experience with mental illness who uses the fine arts (painting, photography, poetry) or performing arts (music, drama, dance, song) to advance his or her own recovery, help others struggling with mental illness or increase awareness and understanding of mental illness in the community.
- **Excellence in Behavioral Healthcare Management**: Recognizes a program or organization that has demonstrated effective and innovative programs currently in use to minimize risk and liability, improve access to mental health and addiction treatment services, nurture workforce skills or enhance the customer experience.
- **Excellence in Mental Health First Aid Community Impact**: Recognizes an organization that has demonstrated commitment and made an extensive and
significant impact on the community through delivery of Mental Health First Aid USA (adult and/or youth) trainings.

- **Excellence in Technology:** Recognizes an organization that uses new technologies — including mobile, web, social media and remote/virtual care delivery — to achieve operational efficiencies and improve access to care, treatment, support and health outcomes for persons with mental illnesses and addictions.

- **Excellence in Whole Person Care:** Recognizes a health care organization that has achieved primary and behavioral health integration to address the whole health needs of the people it serves and/or has developed innovative ways to promote health and wellness.

- **Peer Specialist of the Year:** Recognizes a person with a lived experience of mental illness who works in a health care organization and uses his or her strengths to help peers on their road to recovery from mental illness.

- **Rising Star:** Recognizes an individual with lived experiences with mental illness or substance use disorders who has achieved success in the workforce. The honoree will be a person in early or mid-career who has been recognized by their peers or superiors as having significant potential, demonstrating extraordinary leadership, courage and compassion. (Applicants may be, but are not required to be in the behavioral health care workforce.)

- **Visionary Leadership:** Recognizes an individual (staff or volunteer) who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the behavioral health care field, improving the lives of individuals with mental illnesses and addictions disorders and helping them live full lives in their communities.

**Can I submit multiple entries?**

You may submit multiple entries as long as you nominate a different individual or organization for each Award. A person or organization may be nominated for only ONE category with each Awards program.

**Do I have to be a National Council member to apply?**

You **DO** need to be a National Council member to apply for the following categories:

- Champions of Excellence
- Excellence in Addictions Treatment
- Excellence in Behavioral Healthcare Management
- Excellence in Technology
- Visionary Leadership

You **DO NOT** need to be a National Council member to apply for the following categories:

- Doc of the Year
• Excellence in Advocacy (Individual or Organizational)
• Excellence in Advocacy by an Elected Official
• Excellence in Artistic Expression
• Excellence in Mental Health First Aid Community Impact
• Excellence in Whole Person Care
• Peer Specialist of the Year
• Rising Star

How do I know if my organization is a member of the National Council?

Go to www.TheNationalCouncil.org/about/membership/members and search for your organization's name under your state. You can also contact the National Council at Membership@TheNationalCouncil.org.

What do I need to have prepared to submit a nomination?

The application will ask basic demographic information and a series of questions requiring responses no longer than 200 words. Be sure to provide clear, concise answers that highlight what makes your submission unique. If you are nominating an individual, you will need to have their headshot and bio ready to upload. If you are nominating an organization, you will need to have the logo and boilerplate ready. You will also have the opportunity to upload optional supporting documents.

Once I’ve started my entry, can I return and finish it later?

Yes. Once you register your email and password on the online application system, you can return to your submission at any time. You can see all your applications by logging in and selecting “My Applications” on the left side of the page.

Why isn’t my username/password working?

Your login is created when you start your online application. If you forget your password, click the “lost password” link in the login box to reset. This login information is not the same as your National Council member login. If the login you created when registering for the awards is not working, contact 866.362.0505 or Awards@TheNationalCouncil.org.
How do I submit an entry for another person anonymously? I want it to be a surprise.

When you begin your application, add your contact information on the “Applicant Information” page. No one else will be contacted regarding your submission. On the consent form, sign your own name. Should your nominee win an award, we will contact you first.

Will I receive confirmation that my application has been received?

Yes. When you have completed your online submission, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, there may be an issue with your final submission. If that is the case, please contact Awards@TheNationalCouncil.org or 866.362.0505 to confirm receipt.

When will winners be selected?

Honorees will be notified by late January 2017, if they have been selected.

What if my potential nominee has received a National Council Award of Excellence in the past?

You can nominate them again, as long as they haven’t won in the same category in which you’re nominating in the past five years.

What are the size and file restrictions for uploading optional supporting documents?

Supporting documents are accepted in the following formats: PDF, DOC, DOCX, JPG, JPEG, PNG and GIF.

Documents may be no longer than three pages. There are no other size restrictions for supporting documents.

What are the size and file restrictions for uploading images?

Headshots must be in JPG, JPEG, PNG or GIF format with a resolution of 300 dpi or higher.

Business logos must be in .EPS format.
There is no size restriction.
What are the size and file restrictions for uploading a video?
Videos may be no larger than 1 GB. MP4, AVI and FLV formats are supported.

Don’t see your question? Contact Awards Support, 866.362.0505 or at Awards@TheNationalCouncil.org.