

2024
Stars
Among Us
AWARDS

CALL FOR
NOMINATIONS

ENTRY DEADLINE: MONDAY, SEPT. 11, 2023



LeadingAge[®]
Minnesota

2024 Stars Among Us AWARDS



The 2024 Stars Among Us Awards are open for nomination. Now, more than ever, we encourage you to lift up your staff team and recognize all they do for your organization and those you serve.

Regardless of role, every one of our staff, volunteers, and leaders have given their all to serve older adults the last few years — through pandemic, staffing shortages, and disruption. Honor their commitment and resilience by shining the light on their efforts.

We'll celebrate the Stars at the Institute & Expo, Feb. 7-8, 2024.

Organizational Awards – Excellence in Practice

- Innovation (back by popular demand)
- Process Improvement (Performance Excellence)
- Safe Care for Seniors

Individual Awards

- Rising Star
- Caregiver of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Spirit of Aging
- Outstanding Leadership
- Board Trustee of the Year

Eligibility

Stars Among Us Awards are open to LeadingAge Minnesota provider organizational members and their staff, volunteers and residents/customers (providers of housing, health services, adult day services, supportive services; and their respective owner or management organizations).

Deadline

Nomination deadline for all awards is midnight Monday, Sept. 11, 2023.

Selection and Notification

The LeadingAge Minnesota Awards & Recognition Committee reviews all nominations and selects award recipients. Recipients will be notified in Nov. 2023.

Rewards, Accolades and Celebrations

Award recipients are publicly honored at the LeadingAge Minnesota Institute, Feb. 7-8, 2024 in St. Paul. Feature videos may be produced for select awards. Our public relations team will prepare news releases and photographs to assist with local media outreach.

Every person nominated receives a beautiful frame-worthy certificate of recognition.

How to Nominate

Nominations are submitted online and accessed via <https://www.leadingagemn.org/about/stars-among-us/>

Questions

Email Awards@LeadingAgeMN.org

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Rising Star

Honors a person who stands out in their recent/current efforts to transform and enhance the experience of aging.

Eligibility

This award is open to individuals in any service setting, at any level of the organization.

Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Specific example of how this individual is helping shape the field of older adult services, their broader community, or their organization.
- Exhibits behavior consistent with the values of LeadingAge Minnesota. *
- Share a story that explains how/why this person is a rising star in your organization and the field of aging services.
- One letter of support from the nominee's supervisor, site leader or board member.
- One or more additional letters of support from team members, residents, families, or community members (minimum one; up to three).

Caregiver of the Year

(Statewide and District Awards)

Honors direct and support service caregivers who go beyond expectations to greatly enhance the quality of life for seniors and their communities.

Eligibility

Any staff person who has direct contact with the resident or in a supportive role. Members may nominate more than one individual in this category. Caregiver is defined broadly: universal/blended worker, nursing assistant, nurse, personal attendant, care manager, resident assistant, home health aide, health and wellness aide, social worker, activities assistant, rehabilitation/physical therapy, spiritual care, dietary/culinary services, laundry/housekeeping, environmental services, facility management.

Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Demonstrates exceptional commitment to those entrusted to their care and/or operational functions of the organization that support direct caregivers.
- Specific actions that go above and beyond the normal care delivery to enhance and enrich the quality of life and/or living conditions of aging persons.
- Share a story that illustrates this person's exceptional caregiving.
- One supporting letter from the site manager.
- One or more additional letters of support from team members, residents, families, or community members (minimum one; up to three).

*Our Values

Unwavering commitment of our members to missions of service on behalf of seniors and the communities in which they live.

Trustworthiness as evidenced by the highest standards of integrity.

Courageous thinking in creating opportunities and overcoming challenges.

Spirit of optimism in making a positive difference in the world around us.

Accountability to our community and the people we serve.

Better Together to achieve that which none of us can do alone.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Volunteer of the Year (Statewide and District Awards)

Honors a volunteer whose commitment and dedication enhance the quality of life for seniors and their communities.

Eligibility

Any volunteer or volunteer group of a member provider organization.

Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Demonstrates exceptional commitment to older adults through volunteer service.
- Specific actions that go above and beyond the volunteer activity to enhance and enrich the quality of life and/or living conditions of aging persons.
- Share a story that illustrates this person's exceptional volunteerism.
- One supporting letter from the site manager.
- One or more additional letters of support from team members, residents, families, or community members (minimum one; up to three).

Spirit of Aging

Celebrates an older adult who embodies active and vibrant aging.

Eligibility

Any resident, tenant, client or participant of a LeadingAge Minnesota member community.

Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Embodies the concept of active aging by engaging in a variety of activities that may defy stereotypes.
- Makes a positive difference in the lives of others.
- Share a story that illustrates this person's spirit of aging.
- One supporting letter from the site manager.
- One or more additional letters of support from team members, residents, families, or community members (minimum one; up to three).

Outstanding Leadership

Honors a person whose leadership is demonstrated through vision, servanthood, mentoring others, and commitment to older adults.

Eligibility

This leadership award is open to individuals in any service setting, at any level of the organization regardless of title, role or tenure. Think creatively about formal and informal, experienced and emerging leaders in all areas of your organization.

Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Leadership expressed through vision, integrity, and courage to improve the lives of older adults.
- Actions that demonstrate characteristics of a strong mentor and motivator for others.
- Specific example of this person engaging and influencing others in advancing change.
- Share a story that illustrates this person's exceptional leadership in action.
- One letter of support from the nominee's supervisor, site leader, or board member.
- One or more additional letters of support from team members, residents, families, or community members (minimum one; up to three).

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



Board Trustee of the Year

Salutes a volunteer board member of a member organization whose service, commitment, and actions have supported the organization in its mission and service to older adults.

Eligibility

Any volunteer board member who served in 2023 is eligible.

Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Specific evidence of leadership in helping achieve the organization's goals and objectives during their board service.
- Exceptional commitment and actions to enhance and enrich the lives of aging persons served by the organization.
- Share a story that illustrates this person's commitment to good governance.
- One letter of support from the board chair, board member, or site leader.
- One or more additional letters of support from team members, residents, families, or community members (minimum one; up to three).



ORGANIZATIONAL AWARDS: EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE



The Excellence in Practice Awards celebrate the great work you are doing in your organization. They serve as a platform to share promising programs and initiatives with other LeadingAge Minnesota members to help advance and transform the way we serve older adults. These awards align with two signature LeadingAge Minnesota programs – Performance Excellence in Aging Services and Safe Care for Seniors. Up to six total awards will be given across all categories.

Sharing Your Success

Award recipients are asked to present their winning programs at the 2024 Institute as a concurrent educational session with an emphasis on demonstrating what other organizations can learn from their experience and/or adopt or replicate the practice.

Innovation *(This award is back by popular demand)*

Innovation is the realization of a new or creative idea and has the power to transform our field. The subject of the nomination must be a new application or a unique approach in the field of aging services.

Eligibility

Available to any provider organization.

Ideas

Ideas for nominations include, yet are not limited to technology, care delivery, programming and life enrichment, staffing, support services, building design, workforce development, marketing, financial, customer experience or another emerging trend.

Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Executive Summary – description of the innovation program/design, why it was developed, specific purpose and goals, and financial implications for start-up, implementation, and ongoing operation.
- Distinctiveness – How this innovation is a new application or a unique approach.
- Evaluation – How you will measure or have measured the progress, impact, or success of this innovation.
- Replicability – How this innovation can be replicated by other providers.

ORGANIZATIONAL AWARDS: EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE



Process Improvement (Component of Performance Excellence)

Highly successful organizations aspire to excellence through continuous process improvement. Nominations in this category should describe a process improvement project in which the organization went beyond what is required to achieve a level of high performance in one of the key organizational excellence categories: Leadership, Strategic Planning, Customer Engagement, Staff Engagement, Operations

Eligibility

Available to any provider organization. Participation LeadingAge Minnesota's Performance Excellence in Aging Services program is not a requirement.

Ideas

Ideas for nominations include yet are not limited to systematic and data-driven processes for customer satisfaction and feedback, staff-led improvement opportunities, key processes improvement or streamlining, enhanced strategic planning and implementation.

Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Executive Summary – description of the process improvement project, why it was selected, who (roles) was involved, the goal of the project, and the resulting improvement in the process/program.
- Evidence – How does this process improvement project demonstrate excellence in practice?
- Evaluation – How did you, or will you, evaluate the process to identify future improvements?
- Replicability – What did you learn through this process that can be applied to other areas of your organization?

Safe Care for Seniors

Actions, programs, or initiatives that demonstrate the key principles of the Safe Care for Seniors Pledge – keeping those we serve safe from harm and providing care with respect and dignity always.

Eligibility

Available to any provider organization that is engaged in the [Safe Care for Seniors](#) program. At a minimum, the organization must have adopted the [Safe Care for Seniors Pledge](#).

Ideas

Ideas for nominations include yet are not limited to open/transparent communication with residents/families, process to know residents as individuals, engaging staff in Safe Care, applying root cause analysis to safety events, providing support to caregivers involved in a harm event, medication safety initiative, integrating “Just Culture” principles within human resources practices, process for staff to report safety issues/concerns.

ORGANIZATIONAL AWARDS: EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE



Safe Care for Seniors , *cont'd.*

Nominations Requirements/Criteria

The nomination will be evaluated and scored on each of the four criteria.

- Executive Summary – description of the Safe Care for Seniors program or initiative, why it was developed, purpose and goals, and financial implications for start-up, implementation, and ongoing operation.
- Principles – How does this program support the key principles of the Safe Care for Seniors Pledge?
- Evaluation – How did you, or will you, evaluate if this project/initiative achieved its stated purpose?
- Replicability – How can this project/initiative be replicated by other providers?

ENTRY DEADLINE: MONDAY, SEPT. 11, 2023



LeadingAge Minnesota
3001 Broadway Street NE | Suite 300 | Minneapolis MN 55413
www.LeadngAgeMN.org | Awards@LeadingAgeMN.org