



33rd Annual Inclusion Award

Nomination Information

The Governor's Council on Disability's annual Inclusion Award program recognizes and honors Missourians who demonstrate excellence in leadership for best practices in inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

The Inclusion Award and one Honorable Mention are presented annually to recognize private and public employers, individuals, businesses, or organizations in Missouri that have worked toward greater disability inclusion by taking exceptional, proactive, and innovative measures to integrate and mainstream people with disabilities into their programs, activities, and operations.

Eligibility Requirements for this award

The nominee has implemented efforts and demonstrated success or best practices in inclusion of individuals with disabilities in one or more aspects of community living. The efforts may include, but are not limited to a school or other educational institution, place of employment, healthcare facility, housing, leisure activities, transportation, universal design or website development.

Nominees must demonstrate one or more of the following criteria

- A proactive approach to identifying barriers and finding practical solutions for creating opportunities for inclusion of individuals with disabilities in community life
- Removing barriers and improving access to participation for people with disabilities in programs, activities, events or services
- Efforts to raise awareness about disability issues and foster understanding and acceptance of individual differences
- Providing opportunities for participation in one or more aspects of community living
- Inclusiveness in all educational aspects of school, college or university
- Providing full access to curriculum and career readiness programs
- Providing job training in integrated community settings
- Providing opportunities for employment and career progression for individuals with disabilities
- Organization-wide commitment to inclusion across all levels of the organization or business
- Deliberate efforts to implement universal design principles in housing, public places, buildings, or transportation, to create accessible environments
- Accessible communication, technology and products that result in improved capacity and independence for people with disabilities

Nomination Requirements

Complete the online nomination form, which includes a narrative of 750 or fewer words in the space provided (or uploaded) and must explain in detail how the nominee meets the award criteria.

- Supporting documentation may be uploaded in the nomination form but is not required.
- Supporting documentation is limited to letters of support, newspaper articles or other published materials about the nominee.

Nomination Essay

Describe how the nominee has successfully achieved inclusion of individuals with disabilities in one or more aspects of community living. Demonstrate how their efforts have brought positive changes and inclusive practices for the disability community. The essay can be typed, or attached as a Word/PDF document into the nomination form.

All nominations must include

- Nominee's Full Name
- Address
- Telephone Number
- Email address
- Organization Nominee represents (if applicable)
- Nomination Essay (typed or uploaded in the nomination form)
- Name and contact information of the person submitting the nomination
- Name and contact information of two references

The nomination form is available on the Governor's Council on Disability's website at <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/inclusionawards>

Deadline for submitting nominations for the 2024 Inclusion Award is January 31, 2025 at 5 p.m.

Selection Process and Awards Presentation:

A panel of the Governor's Council on Disability's Council members and state department liaisons select one winner and one honorable mention from the submitted nominations. The winners will be invited to the awards presentation. (Date and location to be determined)

The Inclusion Award winner and Honorable mention will receive a recognition badge that can be used to highlight their achievements in email signatures, websites, LinkedIn profiles, etc.

All nominees will receive a certificate of recognition for being nominated. The winner and honorable mention will be announced by email and on the Governor's Council on Disability's website and social media channels.

For questions or additional information about the Inclusion Awards program, please contact the Governor's Council on Disability at (573) 751-2600 or gcd@oa.mo.gov

To request assistance with completing the nomination, or an alternate format, please contact the Governor's Council on Disability.