



Office of Administration  
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Leadership Award

The Governor's Council on Disability's annual Youth Leadership Awards program recognizes outstanding Missouri youths (age 16-26) with a disability that have demonstrated exemplary leadership by making a positive difference for the disability community in Missouri.

### Eligibility Requirements for this award

- Meet the age requirement: 16-26 years old
- Must be a Missouri resident
- Must have a disability
- An individual currently engaged in leadership activities, advocacy efforts, or volunteer services that improve the quality of life of people with disabilities in Missouri

### Criteria for this award may include one or more of the following

A youth with a disability shall meet one or more of these criteria to be eligible for the award:

- Demonstrate leadership skills that improve the lives of individuals living with disabilities
- Advocate for positive changes and inclusive practices for the disability community
- Advocate for accessibility of programs or environments
- Engage in activities to promote disability awareness and etiquette

These leadership and advocacy efforts can be demonstrated at a local, regional, or state level. Examples include but are not limited to school, college/university, tech or trade school, place of employment, club or organization, or in the community or at a regional or state level.

### 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 demonstrated leadership skills and advocacy efforts to improve the inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

Demonstrate how their efforts have brought positive changes and inclusive practices for the disability community.

To support your nomination, you may include information about the nominee's Academic Achievements, Extracurricular Activities, Community Service Activities, Work or Vocational Experiences, or Volunteer Services.

The essay can be typed, or attached as a Word/PDF document into the nomination form.

All nominations must include

- The Nominee's Full Name
- Address
- Telephone Number
- Email address
- Age of Nominee (for proof of age requirement)
- Educational Facility/School or Place of Work
- 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/youthleadershipawards>

**Deadline for submitting nominations for the 2024 Youth Leadership Award is January 31, 2026, 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 Youth Leadership Award winner and Honorable mention will receive a recognition badge that can be used to highlight their achievements on their resumes, 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 Youth Leadership Awards program, please contact the Governor's Council on Disability at (573) 751-2600 or [gcd@oa.mo.gov](mailto:gcd@oa.mo.gov)

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