

Annual Northwest Ohio Nonprofit Excellence Awards
Presented by The Blade and Greater Toledo Community Foundation
in Partnership with The Center for Nonprofit Resources

About the Awards

The Blade and Greater Toledo Community Foundation, in partnership with The Center for Nonprofit Resources, are pleased to announce the Annual Nonprofit Excellence Awards. The Awards are designed to honor and recognize outstanding nonprofit organizations and their achievements in our community. Area nonprofits are encouraged to complete an application that demonstrates their leadership in one of the following categories:

- Excellence in Collaborative Programming
- Excellence in Strategic Action
- Excellence in Organizational Operations

Award Recipients will receive:

- An unrestricted grant from Greater Toledo Community Foundation in the amount of \$7,500;
- An unrestricted grant from The Andersons in the amount of \$1,000;
- A half page ad in The Blade;
- A feature article highlighting the winning organizations in Greater Toledo Community Foundation's newsletter and The Center for Nonprofit Resources publications;
- A one-of-a-kind glass art award engraved with the organization's name;
- One table for ten (at no charge) to the recognition event held in October.

Awards Selection Process & Timeline

The award application deadline is **Friday, May 31, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.** Applications must be submitted through Greater Toledo Community Foundation's online application process. The online application can be accessed on the Foundation application portal at <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/QL4IrQ>

Selection Committee

A selection committee, comprised of past Excellence Award winners and community members with knowledge of area nonprofits, will review the applications and select awardees in each category.

Awards Ceremony Information

Awards will be presented to winning organizations at the Annual Northwest Ohio Nonprofit Excellence Awards breakfast on **Wednesday, October 30, 2024**. Questions about the ceremony should be directed to Laura Sams at laura@toledocf.org.

Application Information

For further information regarding the application process or to discuss a possible submission, please contact: Artisha Lawson at artisha@toledocf.org.

1. Excellence in Collaborative Programming

This award showcases a joint initiative that leverages the skills and resources of multiple nonprofit partners to deliver excellent service to residents of northwest Ohio or southeast Michigan. Creative partnerships lead to greater impact in the community by reaching underserved audiences and avoiding duplication of service. Applications that clearly address the following will receive priority consideration.

- **Description** – Provide a description of the specific project for which the application is being made. Include details about how the project represents a creative solution to a community challenge.
- **Collaboration** – Fully describe all partners contributing to project success including, but not limited to, nonprofit organizations, businesses, governmental agencies or funders.
- **Results** – Provide a description of how the project is evaluated and what measurable, positive results have ensued.

2. Excellence in Strategic Action

This award highlights organizations that have strategically expanded programming or pivoted to a new service delivery model to better meet a community need. Priority consideration will be given to projects that utilized data and metrics to identify a gap in service, aligned with community-wide planning efforts to ensure activities did not duplicate existing services and successfully implemented and sustained the expansion. It is anticipated that projects will still be active and have completed the strategic action within the past five years, but the committee will consider older initiatives as well. Applications that address the following will receive priority consideration:

- **Description** – Describe how the opportunity for expansion or a new approach to service delivery was identified. Detail the planning and implementation process. Clearly identify the need that was addressed through the strategic action including, but not limited to, reaching participants in an underserved geography, reaching a specific demographic or pursuing a policy change, etc. Note how the action has been sustained.
- **Results** – Describe how success is measured. Include any metrics that illustrate impact.

3. Excellence in Organizational Operations

This award recognizes organizations for overall excellence. The strongest applications will demonstrate active involvement by staff, board members, volunteers and constituents in advancing the mission of the organization. Eligible applicants must have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status for at least five years and have a local governance and management structure in place. Applications that cite examples of best practices within the following areas will receive priority consideration:

- **Governance** – Provide examples that demonstrate organizational excellence in board management and engagement.
- **Financial Management & Fundraising** – Provide examples that show the organization's financial management is strong, transparent and accountable. Describe the organization's development strategies including adherence to best practices and donor centered approaches.
- **Evaluation/Community Impact** – Cite examples of how outcome data is used to achieve the organization's mission and how this impacts the community.

Applicant Eligibility

In each category, applicant organizations must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must be a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code and based in northwest Ohio or southeast Michigan.
- Organizations may apply for and are eligible to win in more than one award category, but must submit a separate application for each category, and must address the criteria specific to each award.
- Once an organization has received an award, that organization will become ineligible for that same award for the following three years.

Due Diligence Attachments - The following due diligence documents must be submitted. Please pay close attention to the details or your application may be considered incomplete. Acceptable file types include Word, Excel and PDF only. Required attachments include:

- **Board List** - The names and affiliations of the organization's Board of Trustees.
- **IRS Letter** - A copy of the organization's tax exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service.
- **Background** - Brief background and history of the organization, including when and how the organization was established, its mission or purpose, accomplishments to date and a listing of all current programs and services.
- **Financial Statements** - There are two options for submission of financial statements, which include:
 - (1) Option 1 - If the organization has had an audit prepared within 12 months of the date of application, please provide the full audit; or
 - (2) Option 2 - If audited financial statements for this time frame are not available, provide the unaudited income & expense statement (P&L) and balance sheet for the organization's most recent fiscal year-end. Note that both statements must be submitted if this option is selected.
- **Operating Budget** - A board-approved operating budget for the current fiscal year of the organization.

Additional Required Attachments – The award submission must also include:

- A high-quality electronic version of the organization's logo and;
- Three (3) original electronic high-resolution photos (300 DPI or higher) that depict the organization's mission and services.

These items will be used as part of the award ceremony for organizations selected as finalists. Winners will not be announced in advance of the ceremony. As part of the review process, any applicant may be requested to submit additional supplemental information.