Welcome to Quality Digest’s 2008 State Quality Awards directory. On the following pages you’ll find a state-by-state summary of available awards, contact information and award summaries, including who may apply and deadline dates. We’ve done our best to include only the information that we’ve personally confirmed, but we nevertheless recommend that you contact award administrators directly to verify important dates, requirements and other critical data.

We wish you the best of luck on your journey to quality award recognition.

The Governor’s Award for Excellence is selected among the gold or platinum level of award winners who demonstrate world-class levels of excellence. The award is not given for specific products or services. Its focus is on performance in six key areas: product and service, customer focused outcomes, financial and market outcomes, workforce-focused outcomes, process effectiveness outcomes, and leadership outcomes.

The California Team Excellence Award (CTEA) and the Western Regional Team Excellence Award program is the most sought-after resource for recognizing and improving leadership for team-based efforts and for excellence in team-based process improvement. Award applications are accepted until October. For more information visit: www.calingexcellence.org/index.html.

The Arizona Pioneer Award for Quality recognizes organizations that have established and deployed fundamental quality systems within their operations.

The Arizona Governor’s Award for Quality recognizes organizations that have matured and fully deployed quality systems within their operations; that demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement and have achieved a sustained significant record of performance.

Deadline: intent to apply—June 20; awards application—July 17; site visits—Sept. 29–Oct. 13; applicants notified of selection/nonselection—Dec. 1; feedback reports mailed—Dec. 12; awards banquet—January; recognition ceremony, where they will be recognized, state-level awards will be presented, and the organization can select their awards recipient. Participating organizations can be from any sector, including health care, education, nonprofit, and business, involved in manufacturing, services, and small business. For more information, contact Ben Park at 907-748-7199 or benjaminpark@uadl.com.

The Arizona Governor’s Award for Quality is presented to the highest level of recognition and is presented to the nation’s highest presidential honor for organizational performance excellence.

The California Team Excellence Award and the Western Regional Team Excellence Awards program focuses specifically on processes. This program provides additional opportunities for receiving feedback and recognition. Organizations may apply for any organizational process they believe is exceptional, and are encouraged to relate the process to one of the criteria used in the Baldrige criteria for recognition. This level is the starting point for any organizational process they believe is exceptional, and are encouraged to relate the process to one of the criteria used in the Baldrige criteria for recognition.

The Showcase in Excellence Awards program focuses on specific organizational processes. This program provides additional opportunities for receiving feedback and recognition. Organizations may apply for any organizational process they believe is exceptional, and are encouraged to relate the process to one of the criteria used in the Baldrige criteria for recognition. This level is the starting point for any organizational process they believe is exceptional, and are encouraged to relate the process to one of the criteria used in the Baldrige criteria for recognition.

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Connecticut Leadership Quality Award. Recognizes demonstrated quality improvement as a strategy for performance excellence.

Open to: manufacturing, service, health care, education, government, and other not-for-profit organizations.

Deadline: application for innovation prize available January, intend-to-apply forms for Breakthrough and Leadership categories due March, Innovation Prize applications due May 1.

The Silver Level Bronze Award recognizes organizations that demonstrate significant progress in their approach and deployment of quality principles.

The Gold Level Bronze Award recognizes organizations that have demonstrated significant progress in instituting sound and notable continuous improvement processes. Not all Silver level Bronze Awards are guaranteed a site visit.

Lincoln Gold Award for Achievement of Excellence

For organizations that have demonstrated, the organizational capacity to continuously evaluate and improve processes based on established customer requirements.

Open to all Illinois-based industries, service, health care, education and government entities that are public organizations located in Illinois. Subsidiaries or units of larger corporations are welcome to apply, subject to certain criteria.


Iowa

Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence

Iowa Quality Center

The Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence program helps organizations assess and strengthen performance capabilities. This recognition criterion for the process is the same as the Baldrige National Quality Program Criteria for Performance Excellence.

Open to organizations that have been in Iowa for at least one year and with employees in Iowa.

For the Iowa Quality Center events calendar, go to www.floridastanding.com/calendar_of_events.html.

Kentucky

Kentucky Center for Performance Excellence Award

The Kentucky Center for Performance Excellence program features four award categories: Interest, Commitment, Achievement and Excellence.

Level I: Interest. Designed for organizations in the early phases of performance excellence journey.

Level II: Commitment. Award for organizations that have begun their performance excellence journey. It is designed to create awareness of the criteria.

Level III: Achievement. This intermediate level is intended for organizations that have proven themselves as a point of demonstration of performance excellence than those at Level II. Site visits are not included in this level, however, the applicant has the option to purchase a site visit.

Level IV: Excellence. Organizations applying at this level will be expected to explain their progress toward building sound and notable continuous improvement processes, as measured against the criteria. Site visits are included at this level.

Open to: manufacturing, service, small business, education, health care, government and public service organizations. There is no limit to the number of awards presented in any given year.

The Silver Level Award recognizes organizations that demonstrate the early stages of developing and implementing approaches to quality improvement.

The Gold Level Award recognizes organizations that have demonstrated, through its application of continuous improvement principles, substantial progress in building sound processes and in achieving improvement results, applies at this level to that they are on the right path and for feedback on what is required to achieve a higher level of effectiveness.

Level III: Louisiana Performance Excellence Award for Commitment to Excellence

Recognizes organizations that have demonstrated organizational capacity to continuously evaluate and improve processes based on established customer requirements.

Level II: Achievement in Performance Excellence

Recognizes organizations that have demonstrated, through its application of continuous improvement principles, substantial progress in building sound processes and in achieving improvement results. This level to that they are on the right path and for feedback on what is required to achieve a higher level of effectiveness.

Level I: Commitment to Performance Excellence

Recognizes organizations that have demonstrated, through its application of continuous improvement principles, substantial progress in building sound processes and in achieving improvement results.

Pledge to Excellence: Demonstrates a solid leadership commitment to employees and a goal of long-term sustainability.

Silver Level: Demonstrates a systematic approach in achieving forward-looking, overall improvement-generating results in key areas.

Gold Level: Demonstrates an organization’s key processes are being systematically evaluated and improved and generating results in some key areas.

Commonwealth Performance Leadership Award: Demonstrates your integrated and well-deployed approach in key areas, with good performance against competitors.


Massachusetts

Massachusetts Performance Excellence Recognition and Award Program

For the complete criteria. For information about the Massachusetts Performance Excellence Recognition and Award Program, please contact info@massexcel.org.

The Massachusetts Performance Excellence Recognition and Award Program to organizations that have demonstrated, through its application of continuous improvement principles, substantial progress in building sound processes and in achieving improvement results.

Pledge to Excellence: Demonstrates a solid leadership commitment to employees and a goal of long-term sustainability.

Silver Level: Demonstrates a systematic approach in achieving forward-looking, overall improvement-generating results in key areas.

Gold Level: Demonstrates an organization’s key processes are being systematically evaluated and improved and generating results in some key areas.

Commonwealth Performance Leadership Award: Demonstrates your integrated and well-deployed approach in key areas, with good performance against competitors.


Minnesota

Minnesota Quality Award

For the complete criteria.

The Minnesota Quality Award has four award levels, intended to recognize organizations at the appropriate stage of their quality improvement journey.

Commitment—Organizations recognized at this level have demonstrated some initial self-assessment as a catalyst for improvement and a means of promoting organizational excellence.

Advancement—Organizations recognized at this level have demonstrated progress in building and deploying systematic approaches responsive to the basic requirements of the criteria.

Achievement—Organizations recognized at this level have demonstrated effective self-assessment responsive to the overall requirements of the criteria. They are generally aligned throughout the organization and demonstrate some evaluation and refinement. They also demonstrate good results and trends for most areas important to their business requirements, with some exceptions.

Excellence—Organizations recognized at this highest level have demonstrated organizational excellence relative to the multiple requirements of the criteria.

The Silver Level Award recognizes the organizations that demonstrate the early stages of developing and implementing approaches to quality improvement.

The Gold Level Award recognizes the organizations that have demonstrated, through its application of continuous improvement principles, substantial progress in building sound processes and in achieving improvement results.
Open to: organizations must have headquarters or substantial parts of operations in Minnesota and they must be capable of responding to all category items of the applicable criteria. All business sectors are eligible.

We offer a customer-focused rolling schedule of assessment. We begin accepting Letters of Intent for the current year’s Award cycle on February 1, and the last day to submit a Letter of Intent for the current year’s Award cycle is July 1 (the corresponding last day to submit full applications is November 1, for those invited to do so). Letters of Intent for our Alternative Assessment are accepted year-round. For the complete assessment timeline for organizations, go to www.councilforquality.org/assess_org_timeline.cfm.

Missouri

Missouri Quality Award
Excellence in Missouri Foundation
Ph. 573-526-1728 Fax 573-526-1729
www.mqa.org
E-mail: contact@mqa.mo.gov

The Missouri Quality Award promotes an understanding of the requirements for performance excellence and continuous improvement, and stimulates sharing of improvement information on successful performance strategies and the benefits derived from using these strategies.

Open to any organization located in Missouri. Within the five award categories of manufacturing, service, public sector, education, and health care, awards may be presented small, medium, or large class sizes.

Deadlines: intent to apply forms due Feb. 25; award applications due May 2; independent reviews May 8–June 6; judge’s site visit review Aug. 5; site visits Sept. 7–26; judge’s final review Oct. 15–16; awards banquet Nov. 20. For the complete award cycle, go to www.mqa.org/qualityawardcycle.htm.

Nebraska

The Edgerton Quality Award
Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Ph. 800-426-6565 Fax 402-477-3778
www.edgertonaward.com
E-mail: ded.edgerton@nebraska.gov

The Edgerton “Family of Awards” program encourages Nebraska businesses, educational organizations, nonprofits and health care organizations to apply. Awards levels are determined by the level of maturity and integration of the applicant’s strategies, objectives, key processes and measures as aligned with customers’ requirements and employee requirements. The Baldrige National Quality Award Program criteria are used to guide the assessment of each organization.

The Edgerton Award of Commitment is geared to organizations that are beginning to adopt and apply quality principles through a systematic approach. The Edgerton Award of Progress is aimed at organizations that consistently implement quality principles. They have documented a solid approach to quality management with results reflected in consistency throughout the organization.

The Edgerton Award of Excellence is designed for businesses and organizations performing the highest degree of excellence. The organizational management system is mature with proven results in all areas.

Open to: Nebraska businesses, educational organizations, nonprofits, and health care organizations. Subsidiaries are eligible if they have distinct organizational management systems with proven results in all areas.


Nevada

Nevada Quality Alliance
Ph. 702-254-6002
www.nvqa.org
E-mail: president@nvqa.org

A Nevada State Performance Excellence awards program. Forty-three states now administer such Quality Assessment programs. Ours, like most, will be based on the proven Malcolm Baldrige National Award criteria. We are blessed to count among the NQA membership for its lengthy, active, and effective involvement with Baldrige and similar programs. They stand ready to serve Nevada organizations in the assessment of and assistance with progress toward lasting operational excellence.

New Hampshire

Granite State Quality Award
Granite State Quality Council
Ph. 603-223-1312 Fax 603-821-4587
www.gsqc.com
E-mail: info@gsqc.com

The Granite State Quality Award and Recognition Program includes the Baldrige-based Granite State Quality Award and four levels of recognition—Interest for an organizational profile and action plan; Commitment: for a category-level application; and Achievement: for an item-level application. Organizations that complete Baldrige-based self-assessments are also recognized.

Open to organizations that have demonstrated performance excellence in one or all seven categories of the following criteria: leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis, human resource focus, process management, and business results.

Deadlines: contact the Granite State Quality Council for specifics.
Open to: New Jersey-based small (fewer than 500 employees) or a large (more than 500 employees) organizations in business, health or education; a federal, state, or local government unit; a nonprofit organization; and a support unit or division of an organization.

Deadlines are on the first business day on or before the following dates: New Jersey applications must be received by Aug. 1; site visits Oct. 22–Nov. 9; award notification Nov. 13–14; feedback reports are distributed in April, and the awards luncheon is in April. For the award process calendar, go to www.tncpe.org/index_calendar/index.php.

The Ohio Partnership for Excellence offers two awards.

North Carolina

North Carolina Award for Performance Excellence (NCAE)
North Carolina State University Industrial Extension Service
Ph. 919-515-5624
www.ncsu.edu/ce/cce
E-mail: ser.service@ncsu.edu
Based upon the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the NCAE embraces the same goal as quality management, achievement of superior results.

Keystone Award/Recognition–Progress. The organization demonstrates, through commitment and implementation of quality principles, significant progress in building sound and systematic processes. Qualification for Improvement Award/Performance Excellence. The organization must demonstrate through its practices and achievements the highest levels of performance excellence.

Eligibility: Any organization in the three or more years and organizations that major functions are verifiable in North Carolina.

Intent-to-apply forms due April 7; applications due May 12; site visits Sept. 8–26; award recipients selected October; feedback reports distributed Nov. 26; awards presented December.

South Carolina

The South Carolina Governor’s Quality Award
South Carolina Quality Forum
Ph. 803-231-6788
www.sqa.com/award.html
E-mail: jovee@scق.gov
The Governor’s Quality Award is the highest statewide recognition for excellence in quality management. The award recognizes those organizations that show exemplary progress toward implementing the Baldrige criteria in business or quality may qualify. Other organizations may be recommended for the achievement of the Baldrige criteria in business with the Achiever Awards: Gold—for outstanding performance. Silver—for significant progress. Bronze—for progress with recognition.

There are no minimum levels of achievement that represent the standard or benchmark for recognition. There may not necessarily be winner(s) in every sector every year.

North Carolina Quality Awards
www.qualitynewmexico.org/07-nmqa.shtml
E-mail: dmcondon@centurylink.net
www.newmexicoquality.org
E-mail: mdkoontz@newmexicoquality.org
www.qualitynewmexico.org/07-nmqa.shtml
E-mail: dmcondon@centurylink.net
www.newmexicoquality.org
E-mail: mdkoontz@newmexicoquality.org

Eligibility: Open to any organization operating in Oklahoma and operating within the state.

Commitment. For organizations that have progressed to a point of serious commitment to the continuous improvement principles in their operations.

Achievement. For organizations that have demonstrated significant progress in building sound processes and in achieving improvement results.

Excellence. For those organizations that have demonstrated through their practices and achievements, the highest levels of excellence of worthy recognition to outstanding examples of organizations in the state of Oklahoma.

Open to any organization operating in Oklahoma or three or more years and organizations that major functions are verifiable in Oklahoma.

Intent-to-apply forms due April 7; applications due May 12; site visits Sept. 8–26; award recipients selected October; feedback reports distributed Nov. 26; awards presented December.

Pennsylvania

Keystone Award for Progress (KAPE)
The Keystone Alliance for Performance Excellence
Ph. 717-734-6470
www.keystonealliance.com/index.php
E-mail: info@keystonealliance.com
The purpose of KAPE’s application process is to improve applicants’ daily operations as they grow and progress toward organizational excellence.

The award recognizes four tiers of achievement:

Committed: For applicants that are beginning their journey toward understanding and applying the principles of performance excellence.

Proficient: For applicants that demonstrate a commitment to excellence and have established a process for improving performance.

Mastery: For applicants that demonstrated significant progress toward performance excellence through commitment and practice.

Keystone Excellence Award: For applicants that demonstrate the highest practices and superior results the highest level of performance excellence.

Open to any public or private organization of any size located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Intent-to-apply forms due Nov. 3; applications due Feb. 2, 2009; site visits June 2009; feedback reports mailed Aug. 31, 2009; awards banquet and conference September 2009.

Texas

Texas Award for Performance Excellence
Texas Quality Foundation
Ph. 214-565-8550
Fax 214-565-9082
www.texas-quality.org
E-mail: quality-info@texas-quality.org

Texas Quality Foundation offers a range of levels for applications of organizations, dependent on their level of maturity—Engagement Level, Commitment Level, Progress Level, and Performance Level. For organizations that have been working with performance excellence principles for continuous improvement, they are allowed.

Engagement Level. For organizations committed to using performance improvement principles, but are early in their journey toward performance excellence.

Progress Level. For organizations that have made progress toward a sound management system and the achievement of performance results.

Performance Level. For organizations that have clearly demonstrated good performance results and trends that are directly attributable to deployment of performance excellence principles and multiple learning cycles in all/most categories.

Pyramid of Excellence—The highest level of recognition for organizations that have demonstrated the highest level of excellence through practices and superior results.

The PEPF award process occurs annually with the intent-to-apply form due Aug. 15, application due Sept. 1, site visits December and January, and award announcements are in March, feedback reports are distributed in April, and the awards banquet in April. For the award process calendar, go to www.perfp.org/index_file/Calendar.cfm.
participants are members of the site visit. the award is open for the categories completed the self-assessment and have had a productivity gain over the previous year. they have organization that has demonstrated the largest pro-ductivity award is presented to the organi-zation that is presented with the governor's award for performance excellence - recognition is provided for past medal recipients demonstrating sustained exemplary performance in quality and productivity.

applications are received annually according to the schedule at: http://spqa-va.org/Grant2008_SPQA_Key_Facts.pdf. inquiries are also welcome year-round from organizations interested in applying.

the u.s. senate productivity award.

the u.s. senate productivity and quality award for virginia

u.s. senate productivity and quality awards for virginia

ph. 571-215-8881

www.spqa-va.org/award.html

E-mail: director@spqa-va.org

The u.s. senate productivity and quality award (spqa) for virginia program is the longest con-tinuously-running award process in the nation. the performance criteria and core values are adapted from the malcolm baldrige national quality award and can serve as an internal assessment and management tools for planning, training, and implementing quality initiatives. the program is open to all private businesses and all organizations in the public and nonprofit sectors. applicants may have affiliates, divisions, or head offices in other states; however, the organizational unit under consideration must be within the commonwealth of virginia or the district of columbia.

awards are organized into five sectors: manufactur-ing, health care, service, government, and educa-tion. awards are presented at spqa's annual forum for excellence in the following categories: spqa certificate for commitment to performance excellence - recognition is provided to organizations that have demonstrated, through their commitment and implementation of effective management principles, notable progress in building sound processes.

spqa plaque for progress in performance excel-lence - recognition is provided to organizations that have demonstrated through their commitment and practice of effective principles significant pro-gress in building sound processes.

spqa medal of performance excellence - this is the highest level of recognition presented to organi-zations that have demonstrated through their practices and achievements the highest level of productivity and quality excellence.

spqa award for continuing excellence (ace) - recognition is provided for past medal recipients demonstrating sustained exemplary performance in quality and productivity.

the governor's award for performance excellence - this is the highest level of achievement, this is an advanced level for organizations which show through their skillful practice of perfor-mance management principles, significant progress in expanding their capabilities through improved processes of all kinds. their achievements are demon-strated by results, are clearly linked to quality and performance management systems, and are directly attributable to a systemic, well-deployed approach.

the forward award program provides a system for measuring and recognizing four levels of pro-gress and growth toward performance excellence. there are no limits to the number of organizations which may receive recognition at any level. the four recognition levels represent developmental steps to performance excellence.

the governor's award for performance excellence examiners are recognized at the interest level.

the governor's award for performance excellence examiners are recognized at the achievement level.

the governor's award for performance excellence examiner has completed a self-assessment survey or nar-rative and has had a site visit by governor's baldrige examiners.

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