

FAQs – 2011 Excellence Awards

Q: Do I or the nominee have to be a member of MNN to nominate/qualify?

A: No. All nonprofit organizations and individuals throughout the Commonwealth are eligible.

Q: What is the deadline for applying for the Excellence Awards?

A: April 10 is the deadline for nominations. Finalists will be notified by May 10. The Award Ceremony at Nonprofit Awareness Day at the State House will be held on June 13.

Q: What do winners receive?

A: Winners will receive recognition at the Nonprofit Awareness Day event at the State House. This recognition is accompanied by press coverage of your organization. We will publicize the awards to our press contacts, and several legislators and other statewide leaders will be present at the award ceremony. MNN works to ensure that the awards are recognized throughout the community. Many of last year's winners said the Excellence Award helped them with funding opportunities. All nominees receive a certificate, and winners will receive a plaque. Finalists receive one complimentary registration for the event. There is not a cash prize.

Q: How do I nominate an organization for the Excellence Awards?

A: Fill out the nomination form and submit it online. In the nomination form, you will be asked for basic contact information and to answer four to five questions about the nominee.

Q: Can I self nominate?

A: Yes!

Q: How are the awards judged?

A: A panel of community foundation executives and academics will review the submissions and select the winners that are making an impact in the community in each category. The panel will review the nominations then vote. Winners are chosen based on the criteria listed for each category.

Q: Can an organization or person be nominated for more than one category?

A: Yes, but separate applications must be filled out online for each category.

Q: When did the awards begin?

A: Two years ago we presented the first Excellence Awards at the inaugural statewide Nonprofit Day celebration. The day was recognized and signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick in 2007. Two years ago, Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to officially celebrate a Nonprofit Awareness Day to honor the work of nonprofit organizations. Each year, Nonprofit Awareness Day is celebrated on the second Monday in June.

Q: How many nominations did you receive last year?

A: Last year we received more than 150 nominations, and we hope to get even more this year. Receiving the award really shows that an organization or individual stood out among many peers.

Q: Who can attend Nonprofit Awareness Day?

A: Everybody! Anyone can attend nonprofit awareness day, regardless of whether you're nominated for an award or not. We encourage everybody to attend. Attendance is capped at 250, so register early to reserve your spot.