

2021 AOI Awards...



Applicant & Organization/Program Information

In this section, please provide the following information about you (the applicant) and the organization or program for which you are submitting an application.

My applications → Start application

All questions must be answered unless marked optional

Step 1) Create Your Application

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Step 4) Complete the "Size" Category Application

Step 5) Upload Attachments

Step 6) Provide Feedback & Submit Application

Awards Program Rules

In the space below, read through the awards program rules. Check the box at the bottom to confirm that you have read and understand the rules in order to move to the next step.

Purpose Statement:

The AOI Awards Program provides a platform for identifying and recognizing effective programs and strategies for helping youth age out of foster care and into independence successfully.

Judging Process and Timeline:

- The 2021 AOI Awards Program application window opens on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.
- All applications must be submitted by end of day Saturday, July 31, 2021.
- All applications will be evaluated and finalists will be selected by a panel of judges (two judges for each category).
- Winners will be announced by Sunday, October 31, 2021.
- Award winners will be contacted in November, 2021 to schedule a podcast interview to highlight their award winning strategies.
- Award winners will receive a questionnaire in September, 2022 about how the prize money was applied to support youth aging out of foster care.

Award Categories:

- There are four award categories: Small Organization/Program, Mid-Size Organization/Program, Large Organization/Program, and Youth Impact
- Each application must focus on one category.
- An organization may submit only one application in the "size" categories.
- If you apply for an award in one of the "size" categories, then you are eligible to also submit an application in the Youth Impact category.
- You may not submit an application in only the Youth Impact category.

Awards Program Rules:

- The applicant must be a representative of a 501(c)(3) organization (nonprofit or education institution) in the United States.
- The organization must provide services to youth aging out of foster care (either preparing youth to age out or supporting them after aging out).
- To apply in 2021, the program or services that support youth aging out of care must have been implemented for at least three years, with a starting date of May, 2018 at the latest.
- If an organization or program wins an award, they will not be eligible to apply again. However, since we have changed the program to provide monetary prizes, we will adjust this rule for the 2018 and 2019 winners only:
- Organizations that won awards in 2018 will be eligible to participate in the AOI Awards Program again in 2022.
- Organizations that won awards in 2019 will be eligible to participate in the AOI Awards Program again in 2023.
- Applications must be submitted between June 1, 2021 and July 31, 2021 to be eligible to participate in this year's program.
- To maintain anonymity of minor foster youth, all identifying references in any application materials are to be removed prior to submission.
- By submitting an application, you agree to receive any and all emails from Aging Out Institute regarding the AOI Awards Program.
- All entries and materials submitted will become the property of Aging Out Institute and cannot be returned. The applicant retains copyright of the entry. However, AOI is granted the non-exclusive, perpetual, worldwide rights to publish, use, distribute and display the entry, in whole or in part, and to use the entrant's name and likeness, in all print and non-print media and formats and by all means and technologies now known or hereafter developed, including use for promotional purposes.
- Applicants who submit incomplete applications may be given the opportunity to revise their applications, if time allows.
- If you need to withdraw an entry after submitting the application for any reason, please contact AOI at awards@agingoutinstitute.org.
- Award winners will be required to sign a Release and Affidavit of Eligibility, which will be sent to all winners in November, 2021.
- Award winners will be required to participate in the AOI Podcast series, "Preparing Foster Youth for Adulthood," in which we will discuss their award winning strategies. The podcast interviews will be scheduled in November, 2021.
- Any entry that fails to follow the awards program rules will be disqualified from the competition.

Prizes:

Award winners will receive the following:

- Small Organization/Program Category: Two winners will each receive \$40,000
- Mid-Size Organization/Program Category: Two winners will each receive \$50,000
- Large Organization/Program Category: Two winners will each receive \$60,000
- Youth Impact Category: One winner will receive \$100,000

Those who win an award are expected to apply the funds toward the program that they describe in their application.

Timing Advice:

The application is going to ask for a lot of details regarding your strategies for helping youth age out of foster care. We recommend that all applicants allow sufficient time to fill in the application thoroughly. Here is a recommended timeline:

- June 1 – July 7: Fill out the application with as much detail as possible.
- July 8 – July 15: Ask someone to read through the completed application and provide feedback on the content – whether it is clearly written and thoroughly completed. Make revisions based on their feedback.
- July 16 – July 23: Ask someone who has the skills to proofread the application review it for grammar and spelling. (There are resources online to do this, if needed.) Make revisions based on their feedback.
- July 24 – July 31: Submit your application and any supporting materials.

Final Notes:

Do not assume that your program would not win an award. Because our categories are based on the size of the organization or program, we have enabled those with smaller budgets can also win an award. You also never know how many other programs are applying in any given year, so every program has a chance to win.

Finally, we hope that even just filling out the application will in and of itself benefit those who participate by giving applicants ideas regarding program expansion and/or improvements.

If you have any questions about the awards program application process, please send your questions to AOI at awards@agingoutinstitute.org. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

AFTER CHECKING THE BOX BELOW, CLICK ON "SAVE + NEXT" TO GO TO STEP 3.

ALSO, YOU CAN CLICK "SAVE + CLOSE" AT ANY TIME AND COME BACK TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION LATER.

Check to confirm you have read and understand the 2021 AOI Awards Program rules.

Save + next

Save + close

Preview

Submit application

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ⓘ Applicant & Organization/Program Information ▼

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ⓘ Applicant & Organization/Program Information ▼

The information in this tab is meant to gather information about the applicant and the organization or program that the applicant represents.

WHEN ALL FIELDS HAVE BEEN FILLED IN, CLICK "SAVE + NEXT" TO GO TO STEP 4.

ALSO, YOU CAN CLICK "SAVE + CLOSE" AT ANY TIME AND COME BACK TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION LATER.

Applicant's Name ?

Write in the name of the person filling out the application.

Applicant's Title 

Write in the title of the person filling out the application.

Applicant's Email 

Write in the email address of the person filling out the application.


Applicant's Phone Number 

Write in the phone number of the person filling out the application.

Are you applying on behalf of an organization or a program within an organization? 

An organization is the 501c3 entity that provides services to youth aging out of foster care.

A program is a formal set of services within a larger organization that provides services to youth aging out of foster care.

Organization's Name 

Provide the name of the 501c3 entity for which you are submitting this application.








I confirm that this application represents a 501(c)(3) organization 

To apply for an award in the 2021 AOI Awards Program, the organization being represented in the application must be a 501(c)(3) organization (nonprofit or educational institution). Check this box to confirm that your organization is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Organization's URL

Please write out the full URL (website address) for the organization's website.

Organization's Mission

B *I* **H** |    |  |   | 


Write in the full mission statement for the organization.

Organization's City, State

Write in the city and state where the organization is located. If there are multiple locations, write in the location of the organization's headquarters.

Number of Youth Served (Organization)

Write in the average number of youth (those aging out of foster care) served in the last three years (2018-2020).

Number of Staff (Organization) 

Write in the total number of full-time and part-time staff that work for the organization. (Do not include volunteers.)

Small Organization/Program: 1-10

Mid-size Organization/Program: 11-50

Large Organization/Program: 51+

Save + next

Save + close

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"Size" Category Application Questions

This section contains the core information we need to know about your organization or program's structure and strategies that enable you to support youth aging out of foster care.

You will see that we are asking you to identify which areas of support you offer foster youth who are aging out of care: Education, Employment, Housing, Life Skills, and/or Relationships. This application has been designed so that organizations are judged/scored equally regardless of how many areas of support you offer. In other words, if you only offer one or two areas of support, you still have just as much of a chance to win an award than those who offer services in all areas of support.

For each area of support, judges will be looking for the following information within each area of support. (Consider creating headers for each of these key description points so none are missed.)

1. Youth acceptance/eligibility requirements
2. Organization/program's services
3. How youth are engaged to define their experience while participating in the services
4. Services that are evidence-based (i.e., rooted in research and/or evidence-based programming that demonstrate that certain strategies are effective)
5. Knowledge and skills that youth acquire and how they are taught/learned

6. Staffing (full-time, part-time, and volunteers) needed to implement the services
7. How the organization/program ensures staff and volunteers have the skills they need to effectively work with the youth
8. Partnerships that have been developed to implement the services
9. Methods to guide youth to develop self-sufficiency
10. Intangible characteristics (e.g., patience, confidence, integrity) that youth build
11. How youth with emotional or psychological challenges are assisted
12. How success is measured and celebrated

NOTE: You may want to consider typing your answers out in a separate document (such as Microsoft Word) and then pasting the content into the platform only after you have finished writing, editing, and proofreading it.

AFTER ALL FIELDS HAVE BEEN FILLED IN AND THE CONFIRMATION STATEMENTS AT THE BOTTOM HAVE BEEN CHECKED, CLICK "SAVE + NEXT" TO GO TO STEP 5.








ALSO, YOU CAN CLICK "SAVE + CLOSE" AT ANY TIME AND COME BACK TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION LATER.

Areas of Service

- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- General Life Skills
- Relationships








Select all the areas of service you provide youth aging out of foster care.

Area of Services: EDUCATION

B I H |    |  |   | 








Please describe how your organization or program helps young people aging out of foster care set and achieve education goals related to high school, higher education, or vocational education. Be as detailed as possible so the judges have a clear picture of the experience youth go through in this area of service.

Area of Services: EMPLOYMENT ?

B I H |    |  |   | 








Please describe how your organization or program helps young people aging out of foster care acquire and maintain steady employment. Be as detailed as possible so the judges have a clear picture of the experience youth go through in this area of service.

Area of Services: HOUSING ?

B I H |    |  |   | 

Please describe how your organization or program helps young people aging out of foster care acquire and maintain housing. Be as detailed as possible so the judges have a clear picture of the experience youth go through in this area of service.

Area of Services: GENERAL LIFE SKILLS ?

B I H |    |  |   | 

Please describe how your organization or program helps young people aging out of foster care acquire general life skills (e.g., household chores, driving, cooking, managing money, etc.). Be as detailed as

possible so the judges have a clear picture of the experience youth go through in this area of service.

Area of Services: RELATIONSHIPS ?

B *I* **H** | **“** **≡** **≡** | **🔗** | **👁** **📄** | **?**

Please describe how your organization or program helps young people aging out of foster care build a strong relationship with at least one supportive adult. Be as detailed as possible so the judges have a clear picture of the experience youth go through in this area of service.

I confirm that my organization or program meets the minimum criteria and is able to enter an application in the AOI Flame Award - Small Organization or Program category.



Select this category if your organization or program has 1 to 10 full and/or part-time employees.

By submitting this application, you agree to participate in an AOI podcast should your organization (or program) win an award. Check this box to confirm that you understand this expectation.

Save + next

Save + close

Preview

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Provide Feedback on the Application Process

This year's awards program is the first year we have used this awards platform. Please let us know what you thought about the experience. We'll take your feedback into consideration as we look to make improvements for next year's awards program.

After you have provided your feedback, you may submit your application for judging.

Thank you!

AFTER ALL FIELDS HAVE BEEN FILLED IN BELOW, YOU ARE READY TO CLICK "SUBMIT APPLICATION."

ALSO, YOU CAN CLICK "SAVE + CLOSE" AT ANY TIME AND COME BACK TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION LATER.

EVEN AFTER CLICKING SUBMIT, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EDIT YOUR APPLICATION UNTIL THE APPLICATION WINDOW CLOSES AT 11:59 PM (EASTERN TIME) ON JULY 31, 2021.








How Would You Rate the Award Application Experience? 

- 5 (fantastic)
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 (horrible)

Please give us a rating based on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "horrible" and 5 being "fantastic."

Please be honest. We want to know if we need to make improvements for next year.








What Went Well? 

B *I* **H** |    |  |   | 

Please let us know what you liked about the award application process.

Please be as specific as possible. We want to know what we should keep the same for next year.








What Didn't Go Well? 

B *I* **H** |    |  |   | 

Please let us know what you did not like about the award application process.


Please be as specific as possible. We want to know what we should change for next year.








How Can We Improve? 

B *I* **H** |    |  |   | 

Please write in suggestions for how we can improve the application experience next year.
Please let us know what you did not like about the award application process.

Please be as specific as possible. We want to hear your ideas!

Anything Else? (optional) 

B *I* **H** |    |  |   | 

Please let us know any other thoughts you'd like to share about the awards program.

Would You Like to Attend This Workshop? 

- Yes, please
- No, thank you

Later this year, AOI is planning to hold a workshop about how nonprofit organizations can determine and track the impact of their services (e.g., "success measures"). Please let us know if you would be interested in attending. If so, we'll add you (the applicant) to our invitation list.

Save + next

Save + close

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