

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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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

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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

Preview

Submit application

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"Youth Impact" Category Application Questions

This application will ask you to provide information about your organization/program's objectives, the activities/services that help you reach those objectives, the metrics you use to know whether success was achieved, and the tools you use to measure success.

You also will have the opportunity to share reports, graphs, and other documents that will demonstrate that you have, indeed, had an impact on the youth you have served over the last three years.

When completed, the final application should give judges a very clear picture of the impact you are having on youth aging out of foster care and the process in place to determine that impact.

For each question, be sure to look at the definition of the terms we use and the example answers to ensure you understand what information we are asking for. Please remember that these examples are not meant to give you a template to follow when filling in your application - they are only meant to give you an idea of the type of information we're looking for. Also, we request that you provide more detail than what we have included in the examples, which are brief to save space. Finally, all examples are related to education, but the type of information can still be determined, even for other service areas.

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. If you do this, please keep in mind that when pasting content into this platform, any bolding, such as bolded headers, will not transfer. So, you would need to go through and bold those items after you paste the content.

AFTER ALL FIELDS HAVE BEEN FILLED IN, CLICK "SAVE + NEXT" TO MOVE TO STEP 5.

ALSO, YOU CAN CLICK "SAVE + CLOSE" AT ANY TIME AND RETURN LATER TO CONTINUE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION.

"Size" Category ID Number 








To help the judges locate your "size" category application, please write in your "size" category application ID number, which you can find on your "My Applications" screen.

Areas of Service 

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

Select all the areas of service you provide youth aging out of foster care. For those you select, the questions related to those areas of service will appear below.

What is Your EDUCATION Objective? 








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The OBJECTIVE is the primary organization or program level annual target. Please write out your organization or program's EDUCATION OBJECTIVE.

Example:

Former foster youth who are seniors enrolled in our college's foster youth program will graduate with a degree at the end of the academic year.

What are Your EDUCATION Services? 

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




The SERVICES are the activities/strategies used to achieve the EDUCATION OBJECTIVE.

Example:

Our college's foster youth program provides the following services:

- 1) Tutoring
- 2) Matching youth with a mentor
- 3) Scheduling regular staff visits with the youth

What are Your EDUCATION Service Outputs? 

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The SERVICE OUTPUTS are the numbers establish for the various services that achieve the stated EDUCATION OBJECTIVE.

Example:

The established outputs for tutoring services are to:

- 1) Assign a tutor within 48 hours of a request being submitted by a youth, staff, or mentor (total number of tutor assignments depends on requests)
- 2) Match all youth (-add total number here-) with a mentor prior to the start of the academic year or upon enrollment during the year

3) Hold three touch-base visits between staff and each youth each semester, for a total of six touch-base visits

What are your EDUCATION Success Measures? ?

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SUCCESS MEASURES are the metrics used to determine whether the EDUCATION OBJECTIVE was met. (There may be more than one metric for a single objective).

Example:

We use the following metric to determine whether our education objective was met:

-The percentage of youth in their senior year that receive passing grades sufficient to earn their diploma from the college

What are your EDUCATION Measurement Tools? ?

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MEASUREMENT TOOLS are the tools or processes you use/follow to track and document the SERVICE OUTPUTS and SUCCESS MEASURES, as well as how often you use the tools. (Tools might include surveys, observations, interviews, self-reports, document reviews, proof of completion, etc.)

Example:

The tools that are used to track and capture success measures include:








- 1) We receive a report of tutoring assignments and sessions held from the college's Academic Services Center. We collect the tutoring reports four times during the academic year to keep track of tutoring needs and assignments.
- 2) We receive a report of mentor matches (with start and end dates) from our program's Mentor Coordinator. We collect the mentor match reports four times during the academic year to keep track of mentoring assignments and any replacement needs.
- 3) We gather self-reports from mentors that indicate the mentoring dates and topics discussed with the

youth throughout the academic year. We combine these self-reports into a final mentor coaching report at the end of each academic year.

4) We compile a report of touch-base visits by reviewing self-reports by staff that indicate the dates of touch-base meetings with the youth. We collect the touch-base visit reports four times during the academic year to keep track of the touch-base visit frequency.

5) We request the final grades (transcript) for all youth in their senior year from the college's Office of the Registrar.

What are your EDUCATION Outcome Reports? 

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OUTCOME REPORTS are the documents used to demonstrate the achievement of the SERVICE OUTPUTS and the EDUCATION OBJECTIVE. (Please list the reports in this section. Then, you will be asked to upload the most recent example of each report you identify in the next step (tab) of the application process.)

Example:

The reports that we develop to demonstrate the impact we have on youth are:

- 1) A compilation program tutoring report
- 2) A compilation program mentor match report
- 3) A compilation program touch-base visit report
- 4) A compilation program mentor coaching report
- 5) A bar graph that shows the final grades and graduation rates for all seniors in the program

I confirm that my organization or program meets the minimum criteria and is able to enter an application in the AOI Phoenix - Youth Impact category.



Select this category if you have already submitted an application in one of the organization size categories and are interested in applying for the Youth Impact award, as well.

Save + next

Save + close

Preview

Submit application

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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? 

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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? 

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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? 

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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) 

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

In Which "Size" Category Did You Apply? 

To help the judges find your "size" category application, please let us know in which "size" category you applied.

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.

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