



2018 Direct Care Worker of the Year Award Information and Nominating Instructions

Nominations must be received by March 30, 2018

What is the Direct Care Worker of the Year Award?

Whether in the home or in a facility, direct care workers determine the quality of care. They are in key positions to enrich older adults' lives, helping them to address their challenges and celebrate their blessings. With acknowledgement and respect for their critical role, Care for Elders is once again proud to present the **Direct Care Worker of the Year Award** at the 21st Annual Direct Care Workers Conference **on April 17, 2018**.

At least one winner and two honorable mentions will be named. Each winner will receive an award and a cash prize at the 21st Annual Direct Care Workers Conference on April 17, 2018. All nominees will receive a special recognition for their nomination. **It is important for award recipients to attend the conference.**

Eligibility

To be eligible for the award, a person must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a front line staff member who provides regular care directly to at least one older adult, or
2. (New for 2018) A direct care manager or supervisor who also provides at least weekly care for a client.
3. Be affiliated with an agency, organization, or facility that serves multiple clients, though the person does not have to be an employee. There needs to be an entity that either provides vetting or can vouch for the level of care provided, besides the client.
4. Be able to complete a W-9 before the award is provided.

Who is **not** eligible:

1. Agency staff members, such as nurses, social workers, or other employees, including those who do not work for care providing agencies or programs
2. Self-employed individuals who are not connected with an agency or referral source
3. Family caregivers

Who can nominate?

Anyone who has worked with the nominee for at least one year and is knowledgeable about the nominee's work can nominate. Examples of past individuals who have provided nominations are: supervisors, co-workers, clients, and client family members. While multiple nominations of the same individual are welcome, winners will NOT be selected solely based on the number of nominations received. **Self-nominations are not accepted.**

How do I nominate someone?

Complete the nomination form online at www.careforelders.org. You may either type or copy/paste a letter into this form or you may answer questions based on the criteria the selection committee uses to select the winner. Provide relevant examples for as many questions as you can. Nominations will be judged based on content, not grammar.

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If you are unable to submit nominations via the online form, please e-mail your nominations to tmermelstein@erjcchouston.org and please include the following:

- Nominee's name, title, email (if possible), and phone number
- Place of employment
- Your name and relationship to the nominee
- Your email (if possible) and phone number

Include compelling examples of how the nominee demonstrates above and beyond commitment to improving quality of life for older adults.

Every nominee will be recognized at the Direct Care Workers Conference. ***Nominations must be received by March 30, 2018.*** Include compelling examples of how the nominee demonstrates above and beyond commitment to improving quality of life for older adults.

How are award recipients chosen?

A selection committee reviews all nominations and chooses the honorees. **To give your nominee the best chance, please give examples for as many of the award criteria below. The Direct Care Worker of the Year:**

- Represents the best the field has to offer
- Demonstrates teamwork and initiative
- Maintains a positive attitude in the face of personal and professional adversity
- Is a role model for other professionals
- Demonstrates good interpersonal skills and respect and compassion for others
- Is thoughtful about and make recommendations for improving service quality
- Demonstrates excellence and pride in his or her profession

Can I nominate multiple people?

Yes, as long as they meet the award criteria. Please submit separate nominations.

What is Care for Elders?

Care for Elders is an initiative with more than 60 partners from the non-profit, for-profit, academic, and government sectors. Based at the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center since 2017, Care for Elders is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Harris County's older adults and caregivers.

What if I have additional questions?

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Tammy Mermelstein, Conference Chair, at tmermelstein@erjcchouston.org or 713-595-8178.

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