



*LeadingAge*<sup>™</sup>  
*Minnesota*

2021  
**Stars**  
**Among Us**



**AWARDS**

**Call for Nominations**

Entry Deadline:  
Tuesday, September 8, 2020

# 2021 Stars Among Us AWARDS



The 2021 Stars Among Us Awards are open for nomination. More than ever before, this year has shown us the strength, resilience and sheer dedication of our staff teams. Regardless of role, every one of our workers has given their all to serve older adults through the disruption and challenges caused by COVID-19 – and yet we know that it doesn't take a pandemic for us to realize the value of our people.

We are introducing a new award this year – the **Rising Star Award** recognizes an individual for their efforts to transform and enhance the experience of aging. See page 3 for details. And our Excellence in Practice Awards are now aligned with two signature initiatives – Performance Excellence and Safe Care for Seniors.

Please help us celebrate the stars in your organization. Nominate as many people as you like. We'll celebrate all of them at the Institute & Expo, Feb. 10-12, 2021.

## Organizational Awards – Excellence in Practice

- ✧ Process Improvement (Performance Excellence)
- ✧ Safe Care for Seniors

## Individual Awards

- ✧ Rising Star - *new award!*
- ✧ Caregiver of the Year (*Statewide and District*)
- ✧ Volunteer of the Year (*Statewide and District*)
- ✧ Spirit of Aging
- ✧ Outstanding Leadership
- ✧ Board Trustee of the Year

### Eligibility

Stars Among Us Awards are open to provider organizational members and their staff, volunteers and residents/ customers (providers of housing, health services, adult day services, supportive services; and their respective owner or management organizations.)

### Deadline

Nomination deadline for all awards is midnight Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

### Selection and Notification

The LeadingAge Minnesota Awards & Recognition Committee reviews all nominations and selects award recipients. Recipients will be notified in November 2020.

### Rewards, Accolades and Celebrations

Award recipients are publicly honored at the LeadingAge Minnesota Institute, February 10-12, 2021 in St. Paul. Feature videos may be produced for select awards. Our public relations team will prepare news releases and photographs to assist with local media outreach.

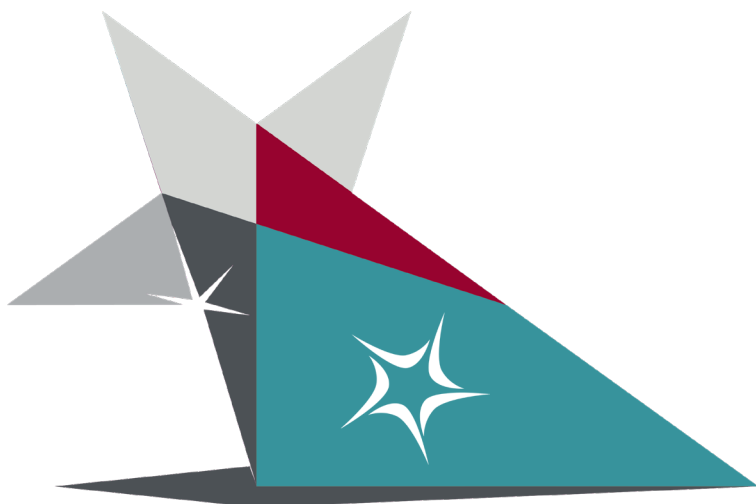
Every person nominated receives a beautiful frame-worthy certificate of recognition.

### How to Nominate

Nominations are submitted online and accessed via <https://www.leadingagemn.org/about/stars-among-us/>.

### Questions

[Awards@LeadingAgeMN.org](mailto:Awards@LeadingAgeMN.org) 651.645.4545



# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

## NEW! RISING STAR



Honors a person who stands out in their recent/current efforts to transform and enhance the experience of aging.

### Eligibility

This award is open to individuals in any service setting, at any level of the organization.

### Nomination and Selection Criteria

- Specific example of how this individual is helping shape the field of older adult services, their broader community, or their organization.
- Exhibits behavior consistent with the values of LeadingAge Minnesota. \*
- Share a story that explains how/why this person is a rising star.
- One letter of support from the nominee's supervisor, site leader or board member.
- One or more additional letters of support from team members, residents, or community members (minimum one; up to three.)

### \*Our Values

**Unwavering commitment** of our members to missions of service on behalf of seniors and the communities in which they live.

**Trustworthiness** as evidenced by the highest standards of integrity.

**Courageous thinking** in creating opportunities and overcoming challenges.

**Spirit of optimism** in making a positive difference in the world around us.

**Accountability** to our communities and the people we serve.

**Better together** to achieve that which none of us can do alone.

## CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR (Statewide and District Awards)

Honors direct and support service caregivers who go beyond expectations to greatly enhance the quality of life for seniors and their communities.

### Eligibility

Any staff person who has direct contact with the resident or in a supportive role. Members may nominate more than one individual in this category. Caregiver is defined broadly: universal/blended worker, nursing assistant, nurse, personal attendant, care manager, resident assistant, home health aide, health and wellness aide, social worker, activities assistant, rehabilitation/physical therapy, spiritual care, dietary/culinary services, laundry/housekeeping, environmental services, facility management.

### Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Demonstrates exceptional commitment to those entrusted to their care and/or operational functions of the organization that support direct caregivers.
- Specific actions that go above and beyond the normal care delivery to enhance and enrich the quality of life and/or living conditions of aging persons.
- Share a story that illustrates this person's exceptional caregiving.
- One supporting letter from the site manager.
- Up to three additional letters from team members, residents or families (optional.)

# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (Statewide and District Awards)

Honors a volunteer whose commitment and dedication enhance the quality of life for seniors and their communities.

### Eligibility

Any volunteer or volunteer group of a member provider organization.

### Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Demonstrates exceptional commitment to older adults through volunteer service.
- Specific actions that go above and beyond the volunteer activity to enhance and enrich the quality of life and/or living conditions of aging persons.
- Share a story that illustrates this person's exceptional volunteerism.
- One supporting letter from the site manager.
- Up to three additional letters from team members, residents or families (optional.)

## SPIRIT OF AGING (Statewide Only)

Celebrates an older adult who embodies active and vibrant aging.

### Eligibility

Any resident, tenant, client or participant of a LeadingAge Minnesota member community.

### Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Embodies the concept of active aging by engaging in a variety of activities that may defy stereotypes.
- Makes a positive difference in the lives of others.
- Share a story that illustrates this person's spirit of aging.
- One supporting letter from the site manager.
- Up to three additional letters from team members, residents or families (optional.)


## OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Honors a person whose leadership is demonstrated through vision, servanthood, mentoring others, and commitment to older adults.

### Eligibility

This leadership award is open to individuals in any service setting, at any level of the organization regardless of title, role or tenure. Think creatively about formal and informal, experienced and emerging leaders in all areas of your organization.

### Nomination and Selection Criteria

- Leadership expressed through vision, integrity and courage to improve the lives of older adults.
  - Actions that demonstrate characteristics of a strong mentor and motivator for others.
  - Specific example of this person engaging and influencing others in advancing change.
  - Share a story that illustrates this person's exceptional leadership in action.
  - One letter of support from the nominee's supervisor, site leader or board member.
  - One or more additional letters of support from team members, residents, or community members (minimum one; up to three.)
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# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

## BOARD TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

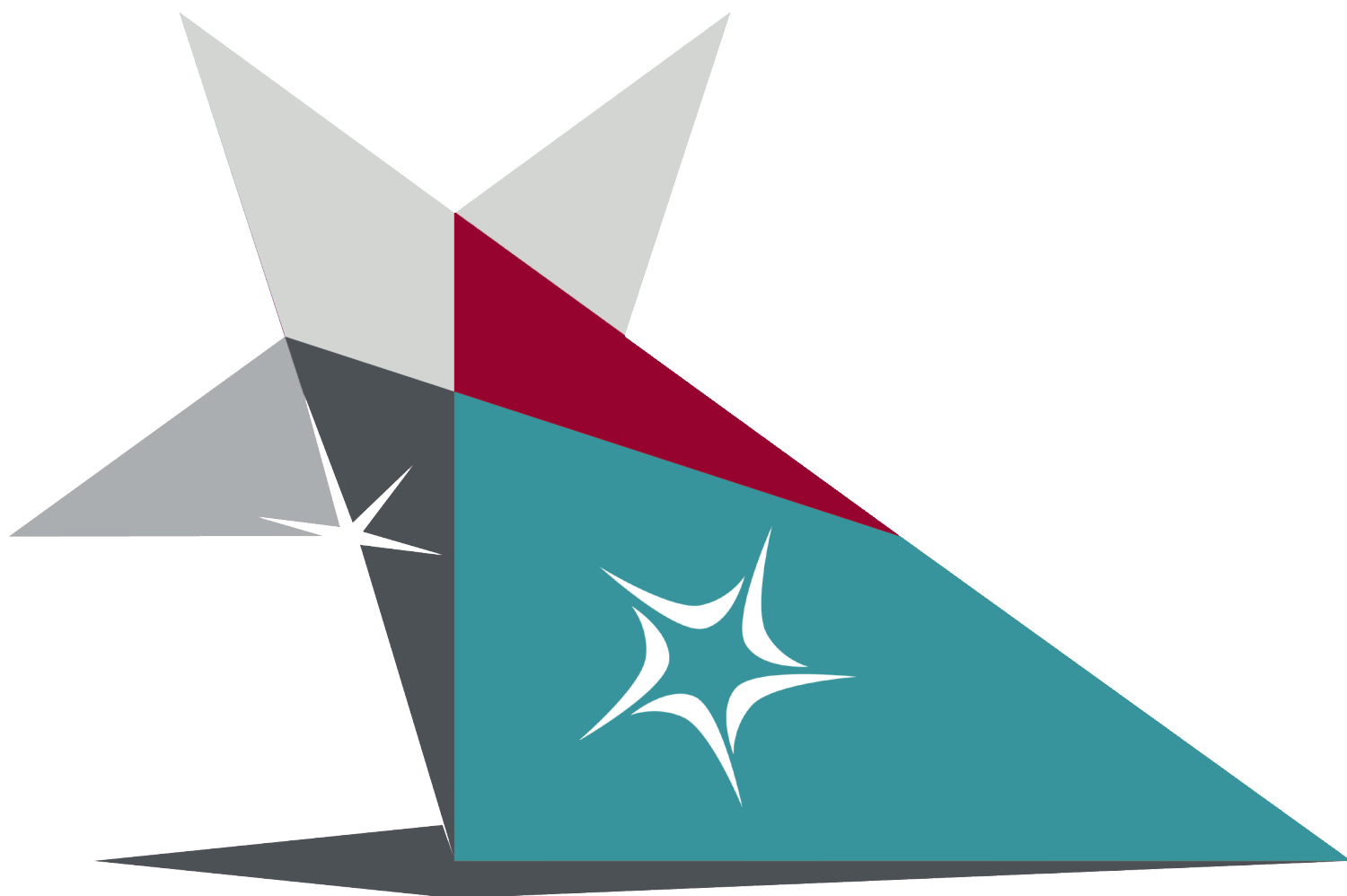
Salutes a volunteer board member of a member organization whose service, commitment and actions have supported the organization in its mission and service to older adults.

### Eligibility

Any volunteer board member who served in 2020 is eligible.

### Nomination and Selection Criteria

- Specific evidence of leadership in helping achieve the organization's goals and objectives during their board service.
- Exceptional commitment and actions to enhance and enrich the lives of aging persons served by the organization.
- Share a story that illustrates this person's commitment to good governance.
- One letter of support from the board chair, board member or site leader.
- Up to three additional letters of support from board members, team members, or community members (optional).



# ORGANIZATIONAL AWARDS: EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE

The Excellence in Practice Awards are a platform to share promising programs and initiatives with other LeadingAge Minnesota members to help advance and transform the way we serve older adults. These awards have been updated to align with two signature LeadingAge Minnesota programs – Performance Excellence in Aging Services and Safe Care for Seniors. Up to four total awards will be given.

## Sharing Your Success

Award recipients are asked to present their winning programs at the 2021 Institute as a concurrent educational session with an emphasis on demonstrating what other organizations can learn from their experience and/or adopt or replicate the practice.

## PROCESS IMPROVEMENT (Performance Excellence)

Highly successful organizations are not just satisfied with meeting requirements; they aspire to excellence, always asking “what is our performance today?” and “how can we improve?” Nominations in this category should describe a process improvement project in which the organization went beyond what is required to achieve a level of high performance in one of the key organizational excellence categories: **Leadership; Strategic Planning; Customer Engagement; Staff Engagement; or Operations.**

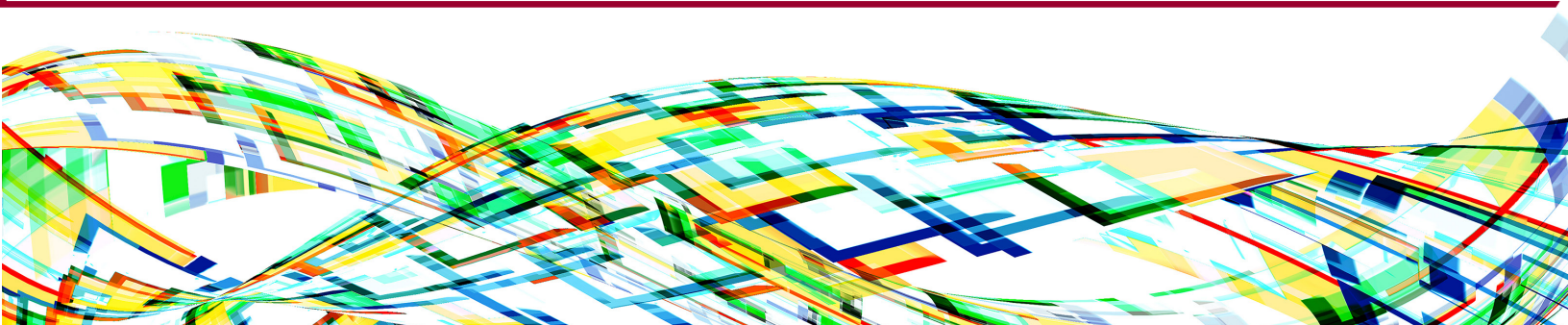
## Eligibility

This award is available to any provider organization regardless of enrollment in the Performance Excellence in Aging Services program.

**Ideas:** Implementing a new voice of the customer process that engages residents and family throughout the year vs. annually; developing a new program that is staff-led to gather and implement improvement opportunities; revamping the staff or visitor screening process, social distancing practices, on-boarding process, or other key process, to be more streamlined with on-going input from the individuals impacted by the process; evaluating and enhancing the strategic planning process to be more systematic and data-driven.

## Nomination Requirements/Criteria

- Executive Summary – description of the process improvement project, why it was selected, who (roles) was involved, the goal of the project, and the resulting improvement in the process/program.
- How does this process improvement project demonstrate excellence in practice?
- How did you, or will you, evaluate the process to identify future improvements?
- What did you learn through this process that can be applied to other areas of your organization?



# ORGANIZATIONAL AWARDS: EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE

## SAFE CARE FOR SENIORS

Celebrates an organization that demonstrates the key principles of the Safe Care for Seniors pledge - keeping those we serve safe from harm and providing care with respect and dignity always.

### Eligibility

This award is available to any provider organization that is engaged in the Safe Care for Seniors program. At a minimum, the organization must have adopted the Safe Care for Seniors Pledge.

**Ideas:** Projects or initiatives related to Safe Care for Seniors Action Steps, such as: open and transparent communication with residents/families during COVID-19 restrictions; a unique approach to engaging staff in Safe Care; instituting an effective approach to root cause analysis related to safety events or to identify opportunities for improvement in infection control practices; programs/approaches to providing support to caregivers involved in a harm event; project to get to know residents as individuals or to address social isolation during COVID-19 restrictions; medication safety initiative based on review of medication error data; integrating “Just Culture” principles within human resources practices.

### Nomination Requirements/Criteria:

- Executive Summary – description of the Safe Care for Seniors program or initiative, why it was developed, purpose and goals, and financial implications for start-up, implementation, and ongoing operation.
- How does this program support the key principles of the Safe Care for Seniors pledge?
- How did you, or will you, evaluate if this project/initiative achieved its stated purpose?
- How can this project/initiative be replicated by other providers?

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**Nomination deadline Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

