The Centralina Region of Excellence Awards is our opportunity to recognize and celebrate how local governments and partners expand opportunity and improve quality of life across our region. The 2020 Awards focus on projects, programs or plans initiated or completed during calendar year 2019. Additional information on eligibility, evaluation criteria and the decision timeline are outlined below. All nominations will be featured throughout 2020 on our website as examples of innovative practice.

2020 AWARD CATEGORIES

CROSS-COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Strong partnerships and cooperation between local governments not only make our communities stronger but also demonstrate Centralina’s mission of regional collaboration.

The recipient of this award actively engaged in counties and/or municipalities outside of their boundaries to develop or implement an innovative project, program, or plan. The recipient demonstrated the value of cross-community collaboration to achieving better outcomes. The recipient convened a range of stakeholders to accomplish more together than any single entity could achieve on its own.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INNOVATION

Local governments are being asked to do more with less at a time when the role of government is under increasing scrutiny. Acting strategically, governments must make optimum use of resources while being innovative and bringing value to our communities.

The recipient of this award strategically developed or implemented a project, program, or plan that delivers measurable value and impact at the local government level. The awarded project, program, or plan exemplifies strategic thinking, utilizes best practices or advances innovation in the field. It is efficient with government resources, drawing on creative partnerships or funding solutions.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

The communities across the region aspire to a high-quality of life that enables people of all generations to have the amenities, services, and opportunities they need to thrive.

The recipient of this award developed or implemented a project, program, or plan that enhances the quality of life in their community. Elements of quality of life include housing, transportation, recreation, health, economic opportunity, and environmental quality. The recipient of this award demonstrated an impact on one or more of these quality of life elements. Nominations that enhance social equity; encourage community participation; develop solutions that build on the community’s strengths and improve upon its weaknesses; or use cooperative volunteerism to maintain or expand services are encouraged.
CLEAN CITIES | CENTRALINA CLEAN FUELS COALITION

The mission of the National Clean Cities Program (locally represented by the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition) is to reduce petroleum dependence, improve air quality, and expand alternative fuel use and technology. The program promotes, accelerates, and expands the use of alternative fuels in the transportation sector.

The recipient of this award is a stakeholder organization that best demonstrates leadership and excellence in clean transportation and alternative fuel activities. The awardee has recognized the environmental, economic, and national security benefits of reducing consumption of fossil fuels and has implemented programs and initiatives to lower their use of traditional transportation fuels. These activities include but are not limited to: purchasing alternative fuel and/or fuel-efficient vehicles, using alternative fuels in their fleet, implementing idle reduction policies, improving fleet fuel economy, partnering with fuel providers to expand alternative fuel availability, or generally supporting and participating in current Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition/Clean Cities programs and priorities. *Please note that the Clean Cities Award has its own evaluation process and judges.

AGING IN ACTION

Every day, 10,000 people turn 60 years old across the Centralina region. The Centralina Area Agency on Aging serves as an advocate, leader, and partner in ensuring adults can age with choice, dignity, and independence.

The recipient of this award serves as a leader in impacting communities so adults can age with choice, dignity and independence. The awardee has implemented a program, initiative or service that demonstrates a commitment and contribution to older and/or disabled adult issues, engagement, participation and/or volunteerism of older adults, and advocacy for and behalf of older and disabled adults and their families.

JAMES D. PROSSER EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Great leaders can be found at all levels of an organization. Their leadership inspires trust, builds confidence and motivates others to invest time in achieving remarkable results for the region’s communities.

The recipient of this award exemplifies and promotes excellence in government, outstanding leadership and high ethical standards. The award recognizes the cumulative achievements of a local government professional who has served as a role model for others and has consistently exhibited high professional and personal standards throughout his or her public career.
ELIGIBILITY & WHO SHOULD APPLY

- Centralina invites all municipal (e.g. village, town, city) and county governments, quasi-governmental entities (e.g. Metropolitan Planning Organizations) and non-governmental organizations in the Centralina region to submit nominations.
- Nominees for the James D. Prosser Excellence in Government Leadership Award must be a local government staff person working within the Centralina region.
- Nominations for all other award categories can be projects, programs, or plans within the Centralina region, either initiated or completed during calendar year 2019.
- Nominating entities may make multiple submittals; however, each submittal must be on a separate award nomination form.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Innovation and creativity: exemplifies a new or innovative practice in the field.
- Alignment with Centralina Regional Priorities*: contributes to the implementation of regional priorities.
- Clarity of Purpose: addresses a specific issue or concern that is widely known or identified in strategic plans.
- Impact: has a measurable impact and sustainable benefit.
- Stakeholder Engagement: utilizes stakeholder engagement throughout.

Additional evaluation criteria for the Aging in Action award includes:
- Commitment and contribution to older and/or disabled adult issues;
- Person-centered focus;
- Engagement, participation, and/or volunteerism of older adults; and
- Advocacy for and on behalf of older and disabled adults and their families.

2020 AWARDS SCHEDULE

Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Award Recipients Notified: Monday, June 1, 2020

Award Ceremony: Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Download the nomination form at: www.centralina.org/regionofexcellence

For information about the Centralina Region of Excellence Awards or Nomination Questions
Contact: Kelly Weston at 704-348-2728 or kweston@centralina.org

*https://centralina.org/regional-priorities/