

Nomination Guidelines and Award Selection for dLCV disABILITY Impact Awards

Background

The COVID-19 Global Pandemic during 2020 was a difficult time of forced adjustments and inconveniences for everyone. This was especially true for people with disabilities, who prior to COVID-19, already faced challenges to daily living. People with disabilities during COVID lockdowns and precautions in 2020 experienced additional hurdles when it came to navigating educational resources, employment, transportation, engaging in daily activities for life such as grocery shopping, or even exercising their right to vote.

Similarly, those who were already actively working with and serving people with disabilities also faced having to pivot how they continued to provide services to clients with disabilities during both a social and economic shutdown, and continue to effectively serve their clients in the new landscape in which we find ourselves today. With the likelihood of social distancing, masking, and in person gather restriction measures likely to remain in place for a while, and the overwhelming switch to no-contact (and often online or virtual) methods of daily operations, continue to provide service consistently, cost effectively, and inclusive can be more challenging than prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.

For dLCV's 2021 spring event, dLCV would like to take the opportunity to recognize individuals and organizations who have been able to adjust, adapt, and excel at providing direct services and/or advocacy supports for people with disabilities, in spite of COVID related barriers, over the course of 2020.

Eligibility

Any individual or organization who has provided either direct services to, or advocacy related services on behalf of people with disabilities over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. dLCV is looking to recognize innovative adapters in the different regions of Virginia (Northern, Shenandoah Valley, Tidewater, Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula, Central, Southwest, Southern).

Individuals or organizations need to have provided inclusive and innovative services(s) or resources to individuals with disabilities within the time frame of February 2020 – December 2020. Some examples of types of individuals or organizations to consider for nominations are (though this is not an exhaustive list):

- 1) A special education professional who quickly developed a way to help ensure that students with IEPs were still able to receive quality educational opportunities, even in a virtual environment;
- 2) An organization who provided cost effective ways to serve people with disabilities during lock down that was Covid-safe and inclusive;
- 3) A individual with lived-experiences with disabilities who creatively problem solved a COVID barrier for people with disabilities that could potentially serve as a model for other communities throughout Virginia;
- 4) An organization who ramped up to fill in gaps in services, supports, and resources for people with disabilities during the 2020 COVID Shutdown, and are still “doing the work” to address the needs of people with disabilities during the ongoing COVID pandemic.

The nomination process

Nominators will need to complete and submit a nomination form for the individual or organization you would like to recognize for their significant contributions towards the well-being of people with disabilities dealing with COVID-19 in 2020. Award winners will be announced publicly and recognized during dLCV’s live broadcast virtual event on June 17th, 2021. All nomination forms will be kept confidential.

Nominations may be submitted by filling out the attached nomination form and returning via email to outreach@dlev.org, or by filling out the following google form: <https://forms.gle/wx4do6UuYKvtG2gL8>

Tips for writing your nomination

- Give specific examples of the nominee's accomplishments towards meeting the award criteria.
- We encourage you to work jointly with colleagues to nominate an individual or organization. However, the quality of a nomination is preferred over quantity of submissions.
- Individuals and organizations may self-nominate.

Recipient Selection

The Nominating and Awards Workgroup will select recipients for each region (that has enough nominations) based **exclusively** on the information provided within each nomination form.

- Any Nominating and Awards Workgroup member who is nominated must abstain from any discussions about and decisions made in the region for which (s)he has been nominated.
- Any member of the Nominating and Awards Workgroup who nominates another workgroup member must abstain from any discussions about and decisions made in the specific category for which (s)he has submitted a nomination for.

Acknowledging award recipients

The recipient(s) of each award will be announced and honored during dLCV's June 17th, live broadcasted, virtual Awards Ceremony. The winner(s) of for each region will receive an honorary plaque and certificate (to be mailed to each recipient).