



# 2024 Call for Nominations

**Deadline: Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

Interested in nominating your program for this year's USAgings Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards? For everything you need to know, please read through this guide *before* submitting your nomination. If you have any questions, contact Connor Kelly, Membership and Outreach Associate, at [ckelly@usaging.org](mailto:ckelly@usaging.org) or 202.872.0888.

## About the AIA Awards

The USAgings Aging Innovations & Achievement (AIA) Awards, sponsored by Caregiving.com and Cumulus, honor programs implemented by USAgings Area Agency on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Program members. Aging Achievement Awards recognize high-scoring, contemporary, effective and replicable programs. The highest-ranking, most cutting-edge programs among these winners, as determined by a panel of reviewers representing USAgings's Board of Directors, receive Aging Innovations Awards.

All recipients of Aging Achievement Awards receive a certificate of recognition, while each recipient of an Aging Innovations Award receives an engraved trophy.

**Awards will be presented during the USAgings Annual Conference**—taking place in Tampa, FL, July 8-11, 2024. A draft news release to customize for distribution to local media will be made available to all awardees, as we want our winners to receive the local recognition they deserve!

USAgings also produces an annual best practices publication profiling each of that year's winning programs. ([See last year's Showcase.](#)) USAgings shares the Showcase with members; distributes copies to all Conference attendees; and makes it available to national aging organizations, select Members of Congress and others. Visit USAgings's online [AIA Clearinghouse](#) for highlights of all Aging Innovations award-winning programs from 2010 to the present.

Read on to learn more about how your innovative programs can be recognized!

# Eligibility

## ***Agency Eligibility***

Only AAAs and Title VI programs that are current USAging members are eligible to submit nominations. Agencies can submit more than one nomination.

## ***Program Eligibility***

To qualify, programs must meet **all** of the following criteria:

1. The program must be cutting-edge, and not rely on practices and approaches that are common in most AAAs and Title VI programs.
2. It must be a replicable program.
3. The program must have been **in operation for one to five years**—launched between January 2019 and January 2023. (*A program started after January 1, 2023 is not eligible this year.*)
4. The agency must have the leading role in the **development and implementation** of the program with only limited assistance from outside technical experts, providers and/or consultants. Remember, only AAAs and Title VI programs can be selected as winners.
5. The program must have produced *measurable* results, e.g., cost savings, improved client service and/or enhanced staff productivity.

**Unacceptable** programs are those that:

- Rely solely on certification or accreditation criteria;
- Have been in operation less than one year or more than five years, or are no longer in operation;
- Involve a ***single, one-time event*** or activity relating to the agency's general operations, e.g., construction of a building, hosting a conference, formation of a task force or committee, privatization/contracting out a function, or the application of targeted federal or state funds; or
- Have previously received an USAging Aging Achievement or Aging Innovations award.

→TIP: Want to see how past winners have described their programs? See our [2023 Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards Showcase](#).

## **Submitting Your Nomination**

- **Only online nominations will be accepted ([Submit Nomination](#))**
- Deadline: Wednesday, January 31, 2024
- After reviewing this document, visit the USAging online [Application Portal](#) and register by creating an account. If your agency applied for the Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards last year, you may already have an account. After registering, you will receive a verification email with a link to sign in. Once you've selected the verification link, you can select "Start New Application" in the Application Portal.
- Complete one nomination form for each nominated program. Print and keep a copy of the nomination for your records.
- To help promote winning programs, a photograph (*600 dpi or higher*) of your initiative in action is required at the time you submit your nomination. The photo should show interaction or a product that is a result of the program. We cannot accept agency logos or photos of just staff members posing.
- If you have technical questions about the submissions process or questions about eligibility, contact Connor Kelly, [ckelly@USAging.org](mailto:ckelly@USAging.org), 202.872.0888.

### ***Program Information***

- Program Name
- Program Category (see below)
- Date Implemented
- Submit a high-resolution photo(s) of this program in action for publication in the AIA awards book

### ***Contact Information***

Provide contact information for the nominator/point of contact for the awards process **and** the public point of contact to be listed in the awards book, if it is not the same individual. Please make sure that the public point of contact is the right person to answer questions about the winning program from other agencies in the future—the public face of the program, so to speak. **Note:** The public point of contact must be an Area Agency on Aging or Title VI program staff member.

Both individuals will be primary contacts for all USAging communications about the awards program, should questions arise.

## ***Program Categories***

Select one category for each program submitted.

- **Agency Operations**—*incl. IT systems, PR/communications, disaster preparedness and response*
- **Advocacy**
- **Caregiving**
- **Community Planning and Livable Communities**
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**
- **Economic Security**
- **Elder Abuse Prevention**
- **Health–Social Care Integration**—*incl. Medicaid Managed Care, Care Transitions, Medicare and other examples of health and social care integration*
- **Healthy Aging**
- **Home and Community-Based Services**
- **Housing and Homelessness**
- **Information and Referral/Assistance**
- **Intergenerational Programs**
- **Kinship and Grandfamily Support**
- **Nutrition**
- **Public Health and Vaccinations**
- **Social Engagement**
- **Technology**
- **Transportation and Mobility**
- **Workforce Development and Volunteerism**

*Note: USAging reserves the right to change nominated programs to a different category as appropriate.*

## ***Program Summary:***

Address **all** of the following seven elements. (Each response box is limited to the number of characters indicated. You can type directly in the boxes or cut and paste from a Word document.)

### **1. Program Abstract (100 words or fewer)**

Provide a short summary of your program. We will publish abstracts of award-winning programs, so please prepare a rich, concise narrative.

### **2. Problem/Need Addressed by Program (100-200 words)**

Describe the problem/need that prompted the creation of the program. Include how this program affects older adults and caregivers **and** how it fulfilled an unmet service need, reached an underserved population, secured revenue sources or enhanced the cost-effectiveness of an existing service. Be as specific as possible.

### **3. Program Description/Innovation (100-200 words)**

Describe the agency's role in establishing the program and highlight how this program is innovative. (If other USAging AAA or Title VI program members were involved in the development of this program, please include a listing.)

### **4. Program Costs (100 words or fewer)**

Identify the funding source and describe operating and capital costs incurred in developing and implementing the program. Identify all annual costs, including personnel and overhead, that a AAA or Title VI program might incur if attempting to replicate this program. Include the program's total operating cost for the most recent fiscal year and the current funding source.

**5. Program Outcomes (100 words or fewer)**

Describe measurable results, not just numbers served. Wherever possible, provide specific outcomes that address the value or impact of the program for your clients and measurements of these results.

**6. Potential Replication (50-100 words)**

Briefly describe how other organizations can replicate this program. Address resources and timing issues associated with replicating the program.

**7. COVID Adaptation and Impact on Agency, If Applicable (200 words or fewer)**

Briefly describe how this program has been adapted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic if it started *before* the pandemic, or how COVID-19 drove or affected its development if it started *during* the pandemic.

## **Evaluation**

Representatives from the USAging Board of Directors review eligible applications to identify the winning programs. Eligible nominations are evaluated based on the above six criteria for the program summary. USAging will notify award-winning programs in April. USAging reserves the right to edit descriptions of award-winning programs in the AIA Awards book for clarity, style and length.

**([Submit Nomination](#))**

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