



REGIONAL CENTER OF ORANGE COUNTY

ANNUAL SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

REGIONAL CENTER OF ORANGE COUNTY ANNUAL SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

Guidelines and Nomination Booklet

Dear RCOC Self-Advocates Families, Service Providers, Community Partners, and Friends:

You all know a person, group or organization that deserves recognition! The Regional Center of Orange County's (RCOC's) Spotlight Awards is one way to acknowledge their contributions for improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Orange County.

Since 1997, RCOC has hosted an annual gala to honor those who stand out as role models of selfless service and dedicated advocacy in their work on behalf of people with developmental disabilities in our community.

The process for nomination is straightforward. Take a few minutes to review the Spotlight Award categories, and then nominate an outstanding individual, group or organization for one of the awards. You can complete and submit your nominations online, or download nomination forms and submit them via mail, fax, or email by the deadline noted.

The awards will be presented at the next annual Spotlight Awards Ceremony and Gala held in the Spring.

Sincerely,



Larry Landauer
RCOC Executive Director



John "Chip" Wright
RCOC Board of Directors Chairperson

Spotlight Award Categories

Community Partner: An individual or organization that, through professional work or volunteerism in the community, demonstrates exceptional leadership and creativity in expanding meaningful opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in Orange County by increasing awareness of issues related to developmental disabilities, eliminating barriers to full community presence and participation, and/or being a voice for those who have difficulty or cannot represent themselves.

Self-Advocate: An individual, who has a developmental disability and who, through his or her personal or professional achievements, has brought a greater public awareness of and recognition to the abilities of all people with developmental disabilities in Orange County.

Elected Official: An individual who holds an elected office, at any level of government, and whose official acts have influenced government policy and have made significant mainstream changes to services and supports for people with developmental disabilities.

Employer: A business dedicated to providing competitive integrated employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities and that inspires a barrier-free, inclusive environment within the workplace.

Direct Support Professional: An individual who demonstrates a strong passion for enhancing the lives of individuals served by RCOC through his or her exemplary actions and creativity in building independence and meaningful participation in the community. For purposes of this award, Direct Support Professional is defined as someone who works as a direct care worker, instructional assistant, job coach, in-home support worker or personal assistant.

Lifetime Achievement: An individual who, through his or her personal, professional or volunteer activities, has made exceptional contributions toward advancing the rights of and enhancing the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Orange.

Service Provider: An organization vendored by RCOC to provide support directly to people with developmental disabilities that demonstrates extraordinary commitment to high-quality, person-centered services and provides exemplary support for those they serve leading to meaningful lives in their neighborhoods and communities.

Parent/Family Member: A parent or other family member who not only demonstrates an outstanding dedication to his or her own child or family member, but also to others with developmental disabilities through support, compassion and advocacy.

Healthcare Professional: A community healthcare professional or group of professionals that has made significant contributions in improving health outcomes for people with developmental disabilities by providing services that reflect best practices in the healthcare system for people with developmental disabilities and/or by giving people with developmental disabilities more support to make informed choices about their healthcare. Examples of healthcare professionals include physicians, nurses, dentists, physical, occupational and speech therapists, psychologists and behavior analysts.

RCOC Achievement: An employee of the Regional Center of Orange County whose remarkable performance, above and beyond his or her assigned duties, has made significant contributions toward fulfilling RCOC's mission, vision and guiding principles and to enhancing the quality of life of those served by the organization.

E. Kurt Yeager Servant Leadership: An individual who, through his or her record of excellence in a volunteer leadership position for an organization that serves people with developmental disabilities, has made a positive impact on the advancement of the organization's mission by improving services and supports as well as significantly expanding opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to participate in policy making.

Legislative Support: This award is in recognition of an individual who has contributed to promoting positive change in the developmental services system through advocacy, legislative service and development of public policy.

General Information:

Nominations must be submitted by the end of January for consideration.

The term developmental disability, as used in Spotlight Award category descriptions, is defined as a substantially handicapping condition beginning before age 18 that is expected to be life-long and is attributed to an intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or a condition similar to an intellectual disability.

Guidelines for All Awards Categories:

- Complete one nomination form for each nominee in each award category.
- Nomination forms must be completed in full to be considered.
- Nominations are evaluated based on the nominee's achievements and contributions, not by the number of nominations received.
- A candidate may not nominate himself/herself, his/her superior or his/her organization.
- Recipients can receive an award in only one category.
- Nominations for individuals or organizations who have received a Spotlight Award in the past five years will not be considered.

Nominations

You may nominate an individual or an organization for a Spotlight Award. To submit your nomination:

1. Complete the online nomination form or complete the nomination form attached at the end of this handbook and submit it as described below.
2. Make sure you indicate the relevant award category for your nomination.
3. You will need to provide a description of the nominee's achievements. This description should address the selection guidelines and eligibility criteria as detailed in this guide. If you are not completing and submitting the nomination form online, you may use the nomination form provided with this handbook.

4. Submit completed nomination forms in any of the following ways:

Online: [Annual Spotlight Award Nominations](#)

Mail: *Attention: Executive Office
Regional Center of Orange County
P.O. Box 22010
Santa Ana, CA 92702-2010*

Hand-delivery: *Attention: Executive Office
Regional Center of Orange County
1525 North Tustin Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92705*

Fax: *Attention: Executive Office
(714) 547-4365*

Email: spotlightawards@rcocdd.com

Individuals receiving services from RCOC who would like assistance completing a nomination form should contact his or her RCOC Service Coordinator.

RCOC Annual Spotlight Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Date: _____

Nominee Information:

Name of Individual or Organization You are Nominating:	
If an Individual; Person's Position/Title:	
If an Organization; Name/Title of Contact Person:	
Address:	
E-mail:	
Phone:	

Nominator Information:

Your Name:	
Your Position/Title:	
Your Organization:	
Your Address:	
Your E-mail:	
Your Phone:	
Your relationship to the nominee:	

I wish to nominate the above individual or organization in the following category (please check one):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Partner | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Family Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Professional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employer | <input type="checkbox"/> RCOC Achievement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Support Professional | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Kurt Yeager Servant Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Achievement | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Support |

Award Criteria:

In 1,000 words or less, please describe the nominee's demonstrated contributions, and how, specifically, the work of this individual or organization relates to the selected award category description. Consider including the following information in your response: (a) general background; (b) the nominee's achievements; how the nominee has enhanced the quality of life of people with developmental disabilities; (c) how the nominee has promoted or advanced a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities in the Orange County community; and (d) the impact, or ongoing efforts, of nominee's contributions/achievements.

[illegible]