

2014 Financial Services Advocate of the Year (NFDO)

This award will be presented to an individual or organization that assists small businesses through advocacy and other efforts to increase the usefulness and availability of financial literacy or financial services for small businesses as well as those who assist entrepreneurs in obtaining small business financing. For example, nominees may demonstrate creativity by using, promoting, or combining various loan programs and services, including those available through the SBA, to assist small businesses in starting their businesses or in obtaining financing; they may actively advocate for changes in the financial services industry by supporting legislative and regulatory actions to assist and help the small business community. Nominees may or may not be small business owners.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for the Financial Services Advocate of the Year award?

The selection will be based on:

1. Encouragement the flow of investment capital to small firms.
2. Demonstrated accomplishments over the last three years to supporting the growth and expansion of small businesses through financial services activities (as measured by job creation or retention, service to underserved markets, number of loans to small businesses, number of businesses started or expanded, number of clients served, access to business opportunities, etc.)
3. Longevity of sustained commitment to small businesses and entrepreneurship.
4. Measurable accomplishments in the quality and growth in the number of small business clients assisted through financial or technical assistance provided.
5. For participating SBA Lenders, nominees must have satisfactory OCRM Risk Ratings.
6. For SBA-approved Small Business Investment Companies, nominees must have a positive working relationship with SBA.
7. Success story examples (not to exceed three stories)
8. Other achievements that exemplify the nominee's efforts to improve the health and vitality of North Florida small businesses.