



U.S. Small Business Administration

In recognition of the small business community's contribution to the American economy, the President of the United States designates one week each year as National Small Business Week this year it will be – April 29 – May 5, 2018.

The SBA Seattle District Office invites you to nominate a local small business and/or an individual or organization dedicated to the small business community. **A company/owner may self-nominate.** SBA's size standards (www.sba.gov/size) apply in defining a business as small. Nominees must be residents of the U.S. or its territories, will be subject to background checks, and must comply with federal civil rights laws. Individuals may not be nominated for more than one award category. See award descriptions below for specific nomination eligibility.

AWARD CATEGORIES

National Awards- winners in these categories will move forward to compete for regional and/or national recognition

- **Small Business Person of the Year:** Candidates must demonstrate staying power and substantiated history as an established business; with at least three years of business operation. Candidates must also show growth in net worth and business expansion; increased jobs; increased sales; innovativeness of products or services; response to adversity; and, contributions to community-oriented projects. Individuals who have received the small business person of the year award at the state level within the past three years are not eligible. **SBA assistance is required.**
- **Small Business Exporter of the Year:** Candidates must own and operate a small business engaged in exporting for three years (preferred). Significant increase in export sales; profits and job growth; creative overseas marketing strategies; demonstrates encouragement of other small businesses to export; and cooperation in the creation of export trading companies and/or introduction of unique trading relationships, products, or services. **SBA assistance is required.**
- **8(a) Graduate of the Year:** Candidates must be a formerly certified 8(a) Business Development Program participant that graduated from the 8(a) program for at least **one year** as of **April 1, 2017**. The firm must still be primarily owned, managed, and controlled by the person(s) whom 8(a) eligibility was based at the time of participation. The firms must show reduced reliance on 8(a) contracts, be in satisfactory financial condition and may not have any terminations for default on government contracts. The firm does **not** need to be a small business. *Individuals or firms who are currently suspended or debarred by the federal government are ineligible to apply.*

State Awards

- **Encore Entrepreneur:** This award honors a business owner who – after the age of 50 – launched a small business and has at least three years of business operations. Nominee demonstrates success through growth; innovative or creative business methods; and potential for future growth. Also assists other encore entrepreneurs with self-employment and mentors the next generation of entrepreneurs.
- **Family-Owned Small Business:** This award honors a family-owned and operated business which has been passed on from one generation to another with *at least a 15-year track record*. Must have a demonstrated history of success with growth in sales and profits; increased employment opportunities for family members; potential for future growth; and volunteer efforts to strengthen family-owned businesses in the community.
- **Millennial Entrepreneur:** Owner must be under the **age of 35 by June 1, 2017**. Must demonstrate a history of success with growth in sales and profits; and at least three years of business operations. Nominee must also show increased jobs; innovative or creative business methods; and must demonstrate potential for future growth.
- **Veteran-Owned Small Business:** This award honors a veteran-owned and operated business that demonstrates staying power and substantiated history as an established business with at least three years of business operation. Candidates must also show growth in net worth and business expansion; increased jobs; increased sales; innovativeness of products or services; contributions to community-oriented projects; and demonstrates encouragement or support for other veterans to start small businesses.

State Champion Awards

- **Financial Services Champion:** This award honors those who advocate and promote small business above and beyond the call of their professional duties and responsibilities. Nominees must demonstrate how they have increased the availability and quality of accounting or financial services for small businesses. Nominees are encouraged to demonstrate their advocacy of legislative or

