

2012 SBA AWARD NOMINATION GUIDELINES: SOUTH CAROLINA DISTRICT OFFICE

Dear Supporters of America's Small Business Community:

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. As you might know, more than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year.

As part of National Small Business Week, the U.S. Small Business Administration takes the opportunity to highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, and others from all 50 states and U.S. territories. Every day, they're working to grow small businesses, create 21st century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America's global competitiveness.

Thank you for helping find and nominate candidates for the most prestigious annual small business awards in America.

Warm regards,

Karen G. Mills
Administrator

All SBA programs and services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

About Small Business Week:

Small Business Week 2012 will be celebrated the week of May 20. Leading up to Small Business Week (SBW), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), often in conjunction with public- and private-sector small business supporters, will host special events at the local and state levels to present awards to local entrepreneurs and small business advocates. These award winners go on to compete at the regional and/or national level. National award winners and competitors will be invited to Washington, D.C. to celebrate SBW 2012.

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Small Business Person of the Year Award

SBA will make Small Business Person of the Year awards at the district level (in multi-district states), the State level (from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam) and the National level. The National Small Business Person of the Year is selected from the State winners.

Who is eligible to be nominated?

Any individual who owns and operates or who bears principal responsibility for operating a small business may be nominated. Partners who jointly own and operate a small business may be nominated as a “team,” so long as the number of individuals in the team nomination does not exceed four. A nominee for Small Business Person of the Year must own or operate a business defined as “small” under the applicable SBA size standards. Individuals who have received the small business person award at the state level within the past five years are not eligible. Nominees must also be residents of the United States or its territories and will be subject to background checks. Small businesses owned and operated by nominees must comply with federal civil rights laws. While receipt of SBA assistance is not required, it is preferred. Consult your nearest SBA district office if you have questions.

Who may submit nominations?

Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community in the United States, including (but not limited to) trade and professional associations and business organizations, may submit nominations for the Small Business Person of the Year award. Individuals may not be nominated for more than one award category.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

South Carolina nominations must be submitted to the SBA South Carolina District Office at:

1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1425
Columbia, SC 29201
Attn: Anna Huntley

What is the deadline for nominations?

All South Carolina nominations must be postmarked or hand delivered **no later than December 1, 2011.**

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on *one side* of 8½” x 11” white stationery, collated and secured in a 1½” binder. ***Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.*** All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the nominee's full name, title, business and home addresses with telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the nominator's name, title, place of business, business address and telephone number and e-mail address if applicable;
 - the type of SBA assistance received (e.g., loan, SCORE counseling, SBDC assistance, etc.);
 - a one-paragraph description of the nominee's business.
2. A completed background form (SBA Form 3300), available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/award-nomination-form>. For "team" nominations, a background form is required for each team member.
3. An original 8"x10" or 5"x7" photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.
4. Four to five additional photos of the nominee's company and employees at work.
5. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.
6. A brief biography of the nominee, not to exceed one page.
7. A business profile, not to exceed one page.
8. The nominee's financial statement — including balance sheets, profit- and-loss statements and financial reports — not exceeding 12 pages, on 8 1/2" x 11" paper - for the last three years.
9. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages. Videos will not be considered.
10. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available at http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.

What are the selection procedures?

Small Business Persons of the Year Award winners will be selected at the district (in multi-district states), state and national levels. In those states served by more than one SBA district office, additional awards may also be given at the district level. Winners at each level will be selected by a panel of judges. Winners at each level will be considered for awards at the next highest level. Nomination packages for each state winner will be sent to the appropriate regional SBA office and prepared for transmittal to the SBA's Office of Communications and Public Liaison for review. The National Small Business Person of the Year will be selected by the SBA Administrator based on the recommendations of the Agency's National Small Business Week panel of judges. The winner will be announced during National Small Business Week. Non-federal employees serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria?

In evaluating the nomination packages, the judges will look at the following criteria:

1. Staying Power

A substantiated history as an established business, including:

- Number of years in business; minimum three years.
- Sustained expansion, addition of territories, growth in square footage occupied.
- Steady growth in net worth as evidenced by total assets less total liabilities on fiscal year end annual balance sheets over three years.

2. Growth in Number of Employees

A benchmark to judge the impact of the business on the job market:

- Sustained over a minimum of three years.
- Increase over the three years must be in excess of growth in Gross National Product.

3. Increase in sales and/or unit volume

An indication of continued growth over the last three years:

- Consistent growth in net income as evidenced by fiscal year annual profit-and-loss statements for a minimum of the last three years.

4. Current and past financial performance

Financial reports substantiate an improved financial position of the business:

- Profit-and-loss statements for the last three years, reflecting sustained upward growth.
- Balance sheets for the last three years, showing consistent increase in net worth and/or partners' return.

5. Innovativeness of product or service offered

An illustration of the creativity and imagination of the nominee:

- Specific description of uniqueness of product or service.
- Explanation of how product or service fits a niche not being adequately addressed by the competition.

6. Response to adversity

Examples of problems faced in the nominee's business and the methods used to solve them, including:

- Specific description of financial, physical, legal or other crisis.
- Substantiation of the threat to the continuity of the business.
- Defined actions taken by the nominee to resolve the crisis.

7. Contributions to community-oriented projects

Evidence of the use of his/her personal time and resources, including:

- Listing of specific contributions of money, time, or resources to charitable causes.
- Membership in councils, boards and clubs providing support and services to the community.

Key Deadlines

March 2012: State Small Business Persons of the Year will be announced.

Small Business Awards

- *Small Business Exporter of the Year*
- *SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year*
- *Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year*

SBA will make the above referenced awards to eligible small businesses at the district level (in multi-district states), the state level (from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam), the regional level and the national level. The national winners will be selected from the Regional winners.

Who is eligible to be nominated?

To be nominated and receive one of these awards, the small business nominee must fit within the category of the award:

Small Business Exporter of the Year

Any individual who owns and operates a small business engaged in exporting may be nominated.

SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year

To be considered a young entrepreneur, the individual must serve as a majority owner and operate or bear principal responsibility for operating a small business with a three year track record, and who will not have reached the age of 30 by June 1, 2012.

Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year

This award honors a family-owned and operated business which has been passed on from one generation to the next. The owner must also serve as a majority owner and operator or bear principal responsibility for operating a small business with at least a 15-year track record.

All nominees must also be residents of and employed in the United States or its territories and will be subject to background checks. Small businesses owned and operated by nominees must comply with federal civil rights laws. Consult your nearest SBA district office if you have questions.

Who may submit nominations?

Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community in the United States, including (but not limited to) trade and professional associations and business organizations, may submit nominations for these Small Business Champion Awards. Individuals may not be nominated for more than one award category.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

South Carolina nominations must be submitted to the SBA South Carolina District Office at:

1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1425
Columbia, SC 29201
Attn: Anna Huntley

What is the deadline for nominations?

All South Carolina nominations must be postmarked or hand delivered **no later than December 1, 2011.**

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on *one side* of 8½” x 11” white stationery, collated and secured in a 1½” binder. ***Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.*** All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the nominee’s full name, title, business and home addresses with telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the nominator’s name, title, place of business, business address and telephone number and e-mail address if applicable;
 - the type of SBA assistance received (e.g., loan, SCORE counseling, SBDC assistance, etc.);
 - a one-paragraph description of the nominee’s business.
2. A completed background form (SBA Form 3300), available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/award-nomination-form>. For “team” nominations, a background form is required for each team member.
3. An original 8”x10” or 5”x7” photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.
4. Four to five additional photos of the nominee’s company and employees at work.
5. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.
6. A brief biography of the nominee, not to exceed one page.
7. A business profile, not to exceed one page.
8. The nominee’s financial statement — including balance sheets, profit- and-loss statements and financial reports — not exceeding 12 pages, on 8 1/2” x 11” paper - for the last three years.
9. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages. Videos will not be considered.
10. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available at http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.
11. For Small Business Exporter of the Year, the nomination package must include a description of the products exported and markets served.

What are the selection procedures?

The SBA Small Business Champions will be selected at the district (in multi-district states), state, regional and national levels. Winners at each level will be selected by a panel of judges. Winners at each level will be considered for awards at the next highest level. Nomination packages for each state winner will be sent to the appropriate regional SBA office and prepared for transmittal to the SBA's Office of Field Operations for review. The National Champions will be selected by the SBA Administrator based on the recommendations of the Agency's National Small Business Week panel of judges. The winners will be announced during National Small Business Week. Non-federal employees serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria?

Each of the above Small Business Champion awards has specific evaluation criteria which are listed below:

Small Business Exporter of the Year

1. Increased sales, profits and/or growth of employment because of exporting.
2. Creative overseas marketing strategies.
3. Effective solutions to export-related problems.
4. Demonstrated encouragement of other small businesses to export.
5. Volunteer assistance to other small businesses entering the export market.
6. Cooperation with other businesses in the creation of export trading companies and/or introduction of unique trading relationships, products or services.

SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year

1. Evidence of success as measured by sales and profits.
2. Increased employment opportunities created by the nominee's business.
3. Development and/or utilization of innovative or creative business methods.
4. Demonstrated entrepreneurial potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth.

Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year

1. Evidence of success as measured by sales and profits.
2. Increased employment opportunities for family members and non-family members for the nominee's business.
3. Demonstrated potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth.
4. Voluntary efforts to strengthen family-owned businesses within the community.

Key Deadlines

December 1, 2011: 2012 nominations must be received by SBA South Carolina District Offices.

January 2012: Regional and national winners will be selected.

March 2012: SBA Small Business Award winners will be announced.

Small Business Champion Awards

- *Financial Services Champion of the Year*
- *Home-Based Business Champion of the Year*
- *Minority Small Business Champion of the Year*
- *Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year*
- *Women in Business Champion of the Year*

SBA will make the above referenced awards to eligible small businesses at the district level (in multi-district states), the state level (from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam), the regional level and the national level. The national winners will be selected from the Regional winners.

Who is eligible to be nominated?

Financial Services Champion of the Year

An individual who assists small businesses through advocacy efforts to increase the usefulness and availability of accounting or financial services for small businesses may be nominated. Nominees may or may not be small business owners.

Home-Based Business Champion of the Year

An individual who has experienced the rewards and difficulties of owning a home-based business and has volunteered to improve the climate for these businesses may be nominated. Nominees may or may not be current small business owners.

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

An individual who has fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of small business opportunities for minority business owners may be nominated. Nominees may or may not be small business owners.

Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

An individual who has fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of small business opportunities for veterans of the U.S. armed forces may be nominated. Nominees may or may not be veterans.

Women in Business Champion of the Year

An individual who has fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of women's business ownership may be nominated. Nominees may or may not be small business owners.

Nominees must also be residents of and employed in the United States or its territories and will be subject to background checks. Small businesses owned and operated by nominees must comply with federal civil rights laws. Consult your nearest SBA district office if you have questions.

Who may submit nominations?

Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community in the United States, including (but not limited to) trade and professional associations and business organizations, may submit nominations for these Small Business Champion Awards. Individuals may not be nominated for more than one award category.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

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1. A single cover page including:
 - the nominee’s full name, title, business and home addresses with telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the nominator’s name, title, place of business, business address and telephone number and e-mail address if applicable;
 - the type of SBA assistance received (e.g., loan, SCORE counseling, SBDC assistance, etc.);
 - a one-paragraph description of the nominee’s business and/or professional occupation.
2. A completed background form (SBA Form 3300), available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/award-nomination-form>. For “team” nominations, a background form is required for each team member.
3. An original 8”x10” or 5”x7” photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.
4. Four to five additional photos of the nominee’s company and employees at work.
5. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.
6. A brief biography of the nominee, not to exceed one page.
7. A business/organization profile, not to exceed one page.

8. The nominee's financial statement — including balance sheets, profit- and-loss statements and financial reports — not exceeding 12 pages, on 8 1/2'' x 11'' paper - for the last three years. (*Not applicable for nominees who do not own a small business.*)
9. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages. Videos will not be considered.
10. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available at http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.

What are the selection procedures?

The SBA Small Business Champions will be selected at the district (in multi-district states), state, regional and national levels. Winners at each level will be selected by a panel of judges. Winners at each level will be considered for awards at the next highest level. Nomination packages for each state winner will be sent to the appropriate regional SBA office and prepared for transmittal to the SBA's Office of Field Operations for review. The National Champions will be selected by the SBA Administrator based on the recommendations of the Agency's National Small Business Week panel of judges. The winners will be announced during National Small Business Week. Non-federal employees serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria?

Financial Services Champion of the Year

1. The amount and quality of assistance given small businesses to obtain financing *outside of* regular business duties.
2. Advocacy for changes in the financial services industry to assist small companies.
3. Encouragement of the flow of investment capital to small ventures.
4. Active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small firms.
5. Measurable accomplishments through the advocacy efforts of the financial services or accounting industries to advance small business interests.

Home-Based Business Champion of the Year

1. Volunteer efforts to improve the conditions for home-based businesses.
2. Entrepreneurial training, policy development efforts, or financial or business planning specifically tailored for home-based businesses.
3. Demonstrated interest in home-based businesses by an owner or former owner.
4. Measurable accomplishments in advancing home-based businesses, such as adoption of public policy or expansion of a program.

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

1. Volunteer efforts beyond business/professional responsibilities to advance minority small business interests within the community, state and/or nation.
2. Demonstrated efforts to improve conditions in the minority small business community as a whole, not solely for individual personal advancement.
3. Volunteer efforts to provide professional services to the minority small business community in a legal, legislative, managerial or financial capacity.
4. Demonstrated accomplishments in advising minority small business groups of opportunities within the overall business community.
5. Other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's merit as an effective advocate for minority small business interests.

Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

1. Active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small businesses.
2. Evidence of increased business opportunities for veterans as a result of the nominee's actions.
3. Advisory activities to improve awareness of small business opportunities among veterans' groups.
4. Advocacy of special consideration for veteran-owned small businesses in government policymaking.
5. Demonstrated success in obtaining support within the community for the establishment of veteran-owned small businesses.
6. Other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's effective advocacy of veteran-owned small businesses.

Women in Business Champion of the Year

1. Active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small businesses.
2. Efforts to increase business and financial opportunities for women.
3. Legal, financial or managerial assistance provided to enhance women's business ownership.
4. Voluntary efforts to strengthen the role of women business owners within the community.
5. Advocacy of the women-owned business community as a whole, not solely for individual personal advancement.
6. Other accomplishments demonstrating effectiveness in improving the environment for the creation and expansion of businesses owned and operated by women.

Key Deadlines

December 1, 2011: 2012 nominations must be received by SBA South Carolina District Offices.

January 2012: Regional and national winners will be selected.

March 2012: SBA Small Business Champion Award winners will be announced.

Entrepreneurial Success Award

Individuals must own and operate businesses initially launched as small businesses according to SBA size standards and subsequently developed into large businesses; and they must have received SBA assistance to help the businesses grow.

SBA will make the above referenced award to eligible businesses on the district level (in multi-district states), the state level (from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam) and the national level. The National winners will be selected from the State winners.

Who is eligible to be nominated?

To be nominated and receive this award, the nominee must be an individual who owns and operates or who bears principal responsibility for operating a business. Partners who jointly own and operate a business may be nominated as a “team,” so long as the number of individuals in the team nomination does not exceed four. A nominee for this award must own or operate a business that initially was defined as “small” under the applicable SBA size standards, developed into a large business and must have received SBA assistance to help the business grow. Nominees must also be residents of and employed in the United States or its territories and will be subject to background checks. Consult your nearest SBA district office if you have questions.

Who may submit nominations?

Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community in the United States, including (but not limited to) trade and professional associations and business organizations, may submit nominations for this Award. Individuals may not be nominated for more than one award category.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

South Carolina nominations must be submitted to the SBA South Carolina District Office at:

1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1425
Columbia, SC 29201
Attn: Anna Huntley

What is the deadline for nominations?

All South Carolina nominations must be postmarked or hand delivered **no later than December 1, 2011**.

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on one side of 8 1/2” x 11” white stationery, collated and secured in a 1 1/2” binder. Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered. All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include, in the following order:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the nominee's full name, title, business and home addresses with telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the nominator's name, title, place of business, business address and telephone number and e-mail address if applicable;
 - the type of SBA assistance received (e.g., loan, SCORE counseling, SBDC assistance, etc.);
 - a one-paragraph description of the nominee's business.
2. A completed background form (SBA Form 3300), available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/award-nomination-form>. For "team" nominations, a background form is required for each team member.
3. An original 8"x10" or 5"x7" photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.
4. Four to five additional photos of the nominee's company and employees at work.
5. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.
6. A brief biography of the nominee, not to exceed one page.
7. A business profile, not to exceed one page.
8. The nominee's financial statement — including balance sheets, profit- and-loss statements and financial reports — not exceeding 12 pages, on 8 1/2" x 11" paper - for the last three years.
9. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages. Videos will not be considered.
10. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available at http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.

What are the selection procedures?

The SBA Entrepreneurial Success Award winners will be selected at the district (in multi-district states), state, and national levels. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Winners at each level will be considered for awards at the next highest level. Nomination packages for each state winner will be sent to the appropriate regional SBA office and prepared for transmittal to the SBA's Office of Field Operations for review. The National Entrepreneurial Success Award winner will be selected by the SBA Administrator based on the recommendations of the Agency's National Small Business Week panel of judges. The winner will be announced during National Small Business Week. Non-federal individuals serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria?

In evaluating the nomination packages, the judges will look at the following criteria:

1. Staying Power

A substantiated history as an established business, including:

- Number of years in business; minimum three years.
- Sustained expansion, addition of territories, growth in square footage occupied.
- Steady growth in net worth as evidenced by total assets less total liabilities on fiscal year end annual balance sheets over three years.

2. Growth in Number of Employees

A benchmark to judge the impact of the business on the job market:

- Sustained over a minimum of three years.
- Increase over the three years must be in excess of growth in Gross National Product.

3. Increase in sales and/or unit volume

An indication of continued growth over the last three years:

- Consistent growth in net income as evidenced by fiscal year annual profit-and-loss statements for a minimum of the last three years.

4. Current and past financial performance

Financial reports substantiate an improved financial position of the business:

- Profit-and-loss statements for the last three years, reflecting sustained upward growth.
- Balance sheets for the last three years, showing consistent increase in net worth and/or partners' return.

5. Innovativeness of product or service offered

An illustration of the creativity and imagination of the nominee:

- Specific description of uniqueness of product or service.
- Explanation of how product or service fits a niche not being adequately addressed by the competition.

6. Response to adversity

Examples of problems faced in the nominee's business and the methods used to solve them, including:

- Specific description of financial, physical, legal or other crisis.
- Substantiation of the threat to the continuity of the business.
- Defined actions taken by the nominee to resolve the crisis.

7. Contributions to community-oriented projects

Evidence of the use of his/her personal time and resources, including:

- Listing of specific contributions of money, time, or resources to charitable causes.
- Membership in councils, boards and clubs providing support and services to the community.

Key Deadlines

December 1, 2011: 2012 nominations must be received by SBA South Carolina District Offices.

January 2012: Regional and national winners will be selected.

March 2012: Entrepreneurial Success Award winners will be announced.

Phoenix Awards

Phoenix awards are given to those individuals (business owners, volunteers and public officials) whose efforts and contributions have enabled their businesses or communities to recover successfully from a disaster.

Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery

Who is eligible to be nominated?

Any individual who owns and operates a small business that suffered physical damage following a disaster during the previous fiscal year and received an SBA physical disaster loan may be nominated. The businesses **must have received** an SBA disaster loan during fiscal year 2010 or 2011 for a disaster that occurred during the 2009, 2010 or 2011 fiscal years.

Who may submit nominations?

Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community in the United States, including (but not limited to) trade and professional associations and business organizations, may submit nominations for this Award. Individuals may not be nominated for more than one award category.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

Nominations must be submitted to the SBA Disaster Field Operations Centers (see list on page 38).

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations for Phoenix Awards must be postmarked or hand delivered to the appropriate SBA Disaster Field Operations Center **no later than November 10, 2011**.

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on *one side* of 8½” x 11” white stationery, collated and secured in a 1½” binder. ***Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.*** All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the nominee’s full name, title, business and home addresses with telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the nominator’s name, title, place of business, business address and telephone number and e-mail address if applicable;
 - a one-paragraph description of the nominee’s business.
2. A completed background form (SBA Form 3300), available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/award-nomination-form>.
3. An original 8”x10” or 5”x7” photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.
4. Four to five additional photos of the nominee’s company and employees at work.
5. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.

6. A brief biography of the nominee, not to exceed one page.
7. A business profile that must include documentation supporting approval of the SBA disaster loan.
8. A narrative reporting how the disaster damaged the business, how the company was able to rebuild and maintain 90 percent of its pre-disaster work force after receiving the SBA disaster loan, steps taken to prevent future disaster damage (if any), photos documenting the disaster damage (if possible), and photos of the rebuilt property.
9. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages.
10. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available at http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.

What are the selection procedures for this award?

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Non-federal employees serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

1. **Recent disaster**
2. **Extent of damage**
The business suffered at least 40 percent physical damage.
3. **Resiliency**
The business successfully resumed its operations within the same geographic area.
4. **Staying Power**
The business was able to maintain at least 90 percent of its pre-disaster employment level or has plans to rehire employees, attaining 90 percent of its pre-disaster employment level.
5. **Contribution to the local community**
E.g.: The only supermarket in town, a major source of employment in the city, etc.
6. **Speed of recovery**
7. **Initiative and innovation displayed during recovery**
8. **Efforts made by the business to protect the property from future disaster losses**

Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery

Who is eligible to be nominated?

Phoenix awards may be presented to a private-citizen volunteer and a public official who have each made an outstanding contribution to a community's recovery following a natural disaster which occurred during the previous fiscal year.

Who may submit nominations for this award?

Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community in the United States, including (but not limited to) trade and professional associations and business organizations, may submit nominations for this Award. Individuals may not be nominated for more than one award category.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

SBA Disaster Field Operations Centers (see list beginning on page 38).

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations for Phoenix Awards must be postmarked or hand delivered to the appropriate Disaster Field Operations Center **no later than November 10, 2011**.

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on one side of 8 1/2" x 11" white stationery, collated and secured in a 1 1/2" binder. Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered. All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include, in the following order:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the nominee's full name, title, business and home addresses with telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the nominator's name, title, place of business, business address and telephone number and e-mail address if applicable;
 - a one-paragraph description of the nominee's business and/or professional occupation.
2. A completed background form (SBA Form 3300), available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/award-nomination-form>.
3. An original 8"x10" or 5"x7" photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.
4. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.
5. A brief biography of the nominee, not to exceed one page.
6. A narrative detailing how that person responded to the needs of the community in the aftermath of the disaster.
7. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including photos, news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages.
8. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available at http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.

What are the evaluation/selection procedures for this award?

Phoenix Award nominees in the Outstanding Contribution to Disaster Recovery by a public official and volunteer categories are judged by the substantive, selfless and far-reaching nature of their contribution to the post-disaster recovery of their respective communities. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Non-federal employees serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

Federal Procurement Awards

Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award

Who is eligible to be nominated?

This award honors small businesses that have provided the government with outstanding goods and services as prime contractors. All nominees must be defined as “small” according to applicable SBA size standards. Firms that have received this award within the past three years are not eligible. For more information, contact the nearest Government Contracting Area Office (see list beginning on page 37).

Who may submit nominations?

Only federal agencies may nominate firms for the Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

Nominations for the Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award must be submitted to the Government Contracting Area Office, Attn: Government Contracting Area Director, in which the nominating federal agency’s buying activity is located (see list beginning on page 37).

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations must be postmarked or hand delivered to the appropriate Government Contracting Area Office **no later than November 10, 2011**.

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on *one side* of 8½” x 11” white stationery, collated and secured in a 1½” binder. ***Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.*** All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the nominee’s full name, title, business and home addresses with telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the nominator’s name, title, agency name, buying activity name, business address and telephone number and e-mail address if available;
 - a one-paragraph description of the nominee’s business.
2. A completed background form (SBA Form 3300), available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/award-nomination-form>. For “team” nominations, a background form is required for each team member.
3. An original 8”x10” or 5”x7” photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.

4. Four to five additional photos of the nominee's company and employees at work.
5. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.
6. A brief biography of the nominee, not to exceed one page.
7. A business profile, not to exceed one page.
8. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages. Videos will not be considered.
9. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available at http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.

What are the selection procedures for this award?

Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year award winners will be selected at area and national levels. Area winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Area winners will automatically be considered for the national award. The nomination packages of area winners will be transmitted to the Office of Government Contracting for review. The National Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year will be selected by the SBA Administrator, based on the recommendations of a panel of judges. The area and national winners will be announced during National Small Business Week. Non-federal employees serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

The company must excel in the following areas:

1. Overall management
2. Delivery performance
3. Technical capabilities
4. Labor relations
5. Cost performance
6. Special achievements
7. Resource utilization
8. Customer interface
9. Financial strength, and
10. Exceptional results

Small Business Subcontractor of the Year Award

Who is eligible to be nominated?

This award honors small businesses that have provided the government and industry with outstanding goods and services as subcontractors. All nominees must be defined as “small” according to applicable SBA size standards. Firms that have received this award within the past three years are not eligible for nomination. For more information, contact the nearest Government Contracting Area Office (see list beginning on page 37).

Who may submit nominations?

Only large federal prime contractors may nominate a firm for the Small Business Subcontractor of the Year Award.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

Nominations should be submitted to the Government Contracting Area Office, Attn: Government Contracting Area Director, in which the nominating prime contractor is located (see list beginning on page 37).

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations for these awards must be postmarked or hand delivered to the appropriate Government Contracting Area Office no later than **November 10, 2011**.

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on *one side* of 8½” x 11” white stationery, collated and secured in a 1½” binder. ***Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.*** All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the nominee’s full name, title, business and home addresses with telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the nominator’s name and title, the prime contractor name, business address and telephone number and e-mail address if available;
 - a one-paragraph description of the nominee’s business.
2. A completed background form (SBA Form 3300), available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/award-nomination-form>. For “team” nominations, a background form is required for each team member.
3. An original 8”x10” or 5”x7” photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.
4. Four to five additional photos of the nominee’s company and employees at work.

5. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.
6. A brief biography of the nominee, not to exceed one page.
7. A business profile, not to exceed one page.
8. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages. Videos will not be considered.
9. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available at http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.

What are the selection procedures for this award?

Small Business Subcontractor of the Year award winners will be selected at regional and national levels. The regional winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Regional winners will automatically be considered for the national award. The nomination packages of regional winners will be transmitted to the Office of Government Contracting for review. The National Small Business Subcontractor of the Year will be selected by the SBA Administrator, based on the recommendations of a panel of judges. The national winner will be announced during National Small Business Week. Non-federal employees serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

The company must excel in the following areas:

1. Overall management
2. Delivery performance
3. Technical capabilities
4. Labor relations
5. Cost performance
6. Special achievements
7. Resource utilization
8. Customer interface
9. Financial strength, and
10. Exceptional results

Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence

Who is eligible to be nominated for this award?

This award recognizes large prime contractors that have excelled in their utilization of small businesses as suppliers and subcontractors. One award may be made in each of the following five categories: manufacturing; service; research and development; construction; and utilities. Firms that have received this award within the past three years are not eligible for nomination. For more information, contact the nearest Government Contracting Area Office (see list beginning on page 37).

Who may submit nominations for this award?

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence is a self-nomination award program; large prime contractors nominate themselves.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

Nominations must be submitted to the SBA Government Contracting Area Office in which the prime contractor is located (see list beginning on page 37).

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations must be postmarked or hand delivered to the appropriate Government Contracting Area Office no later than **December 9, 2011**.

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on *one side* of 8½" x 11" white stationery, collated and secured in a 1½" binder. ***Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.*** All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the nominee's full name, title, business and home addresses with telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the nominator's name and title, the prime contractor name, business address and telephone number, and e-mail address;
 - a one-paragraph description of the nominee's business.
2. An original 8" x10" or 5"x7" photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.
3. Four to five additional photos of the nominee's company and employees at work.
4. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.
5. A detailed narrative summarizing the company's subcontracting program.
6. A brief biography of the nominee, not to exceed one page.
7. A business profile, not to exceed one page.
8. A five-year trend analysis, in table format.

9. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages. Videos will not be considered.
10. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available at http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.

What are the selection procedures for this award?

Following determination of eligibility by the appropriate Government Contracting Area Offices, nomination packages will be forwarded to the Office of Government Contracting, Washington, DC, for review and recommendation of award winners. The SBA Administrator will select the winners. Non-federal employees serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

1. Summary Subcontract Report(s) for fiscal the year ending September 30, 2009 must reflect maximum practicable opportunity for small business, veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran owned small business, HUBZone small business, small disadvantaged business, and women-owned small business as required by statute and regulations.
2. Demonstrated management support of the small business program.
3. Effectiveness of the small business liaison officer.
4. Outreach efforts during the past 12 months (i.e., seminars, conferences, trade shows and any other related procurement functions).
5. Assistance to small businesses during the past two years. (In the narrative submitted with the nomination, include the various kinds of assistance such as technical, managerial, etc. and where possible, identify recipients by category: small business, HUBZone small business, veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, small disadvantaged business, and women-owned small business).
6. Participation in a mentor-protégé program.
7. Receipt of other awards for small business activities (i.e., federal, state, trade shows, etc.) during the past three years.
8. Use of the Central Contractor Registration's (CCR's) Dynamic Small Business Search Engine, for identification of potential vendors, and use of SUB-Net for publication of subcontracting opportunities.
9. Nomination of firms under the Small Business Subcontractor of the Year Award Program in FY 2009, FY 2010 and FY 2011. (If the company has not yet submitted a nomination for the Subcontractor of the Year Award Program for FY 2011, it must indicate if it intends to do so).
10. Federal agencies with which the company had contracts containing subcontracting plans as of September 30, 2010.

Gold Star Award

Who is eligible to be nominated for this award?

This award recognizes federal agencies (e.g., Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization or, for the Department of Defense, the Office of Small Business Programs), that exhibit exemplary performance in pursuit of aggressive goals and strategic initiatives that help ensure increased small business participation in the federal marketplace. Federal agencies that have received this award within the past two years are not eligible for nomination.

Who may submit nominations for this award?

Self-nominations for Gold Star Awards are made by federal agencies.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

Nominations must be submitted to:

Office of Government Contracting
Attention: Gold Star Award
U.S. Small Business Administration,
409 3rd St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20416

What is the deadline for nominations?

Nominations for the Gold Star award must be postmarked or hand delivered to SBA **no later than December 9, 2011.**

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on *one side* of 8½" x 11" white stationery, collated and secured in a 1½" binder. ***Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.*** All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the name of the office and agency nominated, including the business address
 - the nominator's name and title, business address, telephone number and e-mail address;
2. An original 8" x10" or 5"x7" photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi..
3. Four to five additional photos of the nominee's company and employees at work.
4. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.
5. Tabular presentation of agency small business and socioeconomic procurement preference goals for FY 2010, FY 2009 and FY 2008, and accomplishments against these goals from the Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation.

6. A detailed narrative summarizing the agency's: (a) goaling achievement for FY 2010, for small business and all socioeconomic procurement preference programs, and how such performance compares with that of prior years; and (b) marketing and outreach efforts or other initiatives in support of increased goal achievement that have risen to the level of best practices.
7. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages.
8. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available at http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.

What are the selection procedures for this award?

A panel of judges convened by the Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, will evaluate nominee(s) based on information contained in the nomination package, and provide recommendations to the Administrator. The SBA Administrator will select the award winner(s). Non-federal employees serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

The federal agency nominated must have:

1. Met or exceeded its overall small business contracting goals for FY 2010
2. Met or exceeded at least three socioeconomic procurement preference goals for FY 2010; and
3. Engaged in a level or type of outreach to the small business community, or undertook other measures to increase achievements against goals, that rose to the level of best practices.

In evaluating nominations, the following will be considered:

1. Goaling achievement for FY 2010, for small business and all socioeconomic procurement preference programs, and how such performance compares with that of prior years; and,
2. Best practices including marketing and outreach efforts, or other initiatives, in support of increased goal achievement.

Frances Perkins Vanguard Award

Who is eligible to be nominated for this award?

This award honors federal government agencies and industry for their excellence in the use of women-owned small businesses as prime contractors and subcontractors.

The awards for which nominations are being accepted include the following:

1. The Frances Perkins Vanguard Award for exemplary utilization of women-owned small businesses by a Federal Buying Activity.
2. The Frances Perkins Vanguard Award for exemplary utilization of women-owned small businesses by a Federal Procurement Official.
3. The Frances Perkins Vanguard Award for exemplary utilization of women-owned small businesses by Industry as subcontractors or suppliers.
4. The Frances Perkins Vanguard Award for exemplary utilization of women-owned small businesses by an Industry Procurement Official as subcontractors or suppliers.

Firms, federal agencies and officials that have received this award within the past three years are ineligible.

Who may submit nominations for this award?

Firms and agencies must self-nominate for the Frances Perkins Vanguard Award.

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations for the Frances Perkins Vanguard Award must be postmarked or hand delivered to SBA no later than **December 9, 2011**. The nomination package must include one original and four copies. The nomination packages should be mailed to:

Office of Government Contracting
Attention: Stephanie King – Frances Perkins Vanguard Nomination
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW, Suite 8800
Washington, DC 20416

Ms. King can be reached at (202) 619-0610 or by e-mail at stephanie.king@sba.gov.

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on *one side* of 8½” x 11” white stationery, collated and secured in a 1½” binder. ***Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.*** All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the name of the federal buying activity, federal procurement official, industry buying activity or industry procurement official; and the business address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address;
 - The nominator’s name and title, business address, telephone number and email address.
2. An original 8” x10” or 5”x7” photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.
3. Four to five additional photos of the nominee’s company and employees at work.
4. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.
5. *For nomination of federal buying activities and/or federal procurement officials:* Tabular presentation of buying activity women-owned small business goals for FY 2008, FY 2009 and FY 2010, and accomplishments against such goals from the Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation.

6. *For nomination of industry buying activities and/or industry procurement officials:* Tabular presentation summary of subcontract reports for FY 2008, FY 2009 and FY 2010.
7. Detailed narrative summarizing the following with respect to increasing participation of women-owned small businesses in the federal marketplace:
 - A. Leadership — includes, but is not limited to, factors such as: written policy supporting women-owned small businesses; reference to women-owned small businesses in standard operating procedures; designation of a senior executive responsible for implementing women-owned small business initiatives and formal recognition of procurement personnel who utilize women-owned small businesses.
 - B. Advocacy — includes, but is not limited to, factors such as: outreach efforts including newsletters; business assistance and training seminars for women business owners; facilitating trade show/marketplace presentations.
 - C. Innovation — includes, but is not limited to, factors such as: using new technologies; new methodologies; new processes and challenging the conventional procedures, resulting in an increase in women-owned small business' participation.
 - D. Implementation — includes, but is not limited to, factors such as: development and administration of an agency/company plan to ensure maximum practicable opportunities for women-owned small businesses as subcontractors; and establishing aggressive subcontracting goals for women.
 - E. Accomplishment – the trend in awards to women-owned small businesses (prime contracts for federal buying activities and officials, and subcontracts for industry buying activities and officials).
 - F. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation, and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. (Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages).

What are the selection procedures for this award?

Following the determination of eligibility, a panel of judges, convened by the Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, will review nominations, and make recommendations to the Administrator. The SBA Administrator will select the award winners. Non-federal employees serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

In evaluating nominations, the following (as described in detail above) will be considered.

1. Leadership,
2. Advocacy,
3. Innovation,
4. Implementation,
5. Accomplishment.

Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Award

Who is eligible to be nominated for this award?

This award honors Small Business Development Center Centers for excellence in providing value to small businesses and advancing program delivery and management through innovation.

Who may submit nominations for this award?

Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community in the United States, including (but not limited to) trade and professional associations and business organizations, and SBDC Lead and Service Centers may nominate an SBDC Service Center for this award.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

South Carolina nominations must be submitted to the SBA South Carolina District Office at:

1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1425
Columbia, SC 29201

Attn: Susan Chavis, SBDC Project Officer

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations must be postmarked or hand delivered **no later than December 1, 2011**.

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on *one side* of 8½" x 11" white stationery, collated and secured in a 1½" binder. ***Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.*** All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - nominator's name, title, place of business, business address, telephone number and e-mail;
2. A completed background form (SBA Form 3300), available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/award-nomination-form>.
3. An original 8" x10" or 5"x7" photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.
4. Four to five additional photos of the SBDC and its staff at work.
5. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not to exceed four pages.
6. A brief biography of the nominee, not to exceed one page.
7. An organization profile, not to exceed one page.
8. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation, etc. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages.
9. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available at http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.

Please also include the chart below in the nominee’s submission:

	Goal	Actual	% Achieved
Long Term Counseling Clients			
New Business Starts			
Capital Infusion			
Client Satisfaction			
Other*			
Other*			
Other*			

**SBDCs may have additional goals and performance measures that can be included in the “other” categories.*

What are the selection procedures for this award?

Small Business Development Center Award winners will be selected at the district (in multi-district states), state, regional and national levels. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Winners at each level will be considered for awards at the next highest level.

Nomination packages for each SBDC winner will be sent to regional SBA. The National SBDC Excellence and Innovation Award recipient of the Year will be selected from the regional winners based on the recommendations of the Agency’s National SBDC Advisory Board, whose members are appointed by the SBA Administrator. The winner will be announced during National Small Business Week. Non-federal individuals serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

In evaluating the nomination packages, the judges will look at the following criteria:

S – Surpasses

Meets or exceeds the service center’s performance milestones including long-term counseling clients (5 hours of counseling contact time), new businesses started, capital infusion, client satisfaction and may include other center goals. (Include actual results and the related goal.)

B – Builds

Helps build small businesses by creating and implementing innovative programs, events, publications, research materials, and online applications. This success is demonstrated through success stories, job creation/retention and revenue growth resulting from SBDC counseling and training assistance.

D – Develops

Prepares the service center for success by actively participating with the lead center in the professional development of counselors in accordance with the network’s strategic plan.

C – Champions

Acknowledged by the local/regional small business and economic development community as an advocate for advancing opportunities for entrepreneurial development. (Include any relevant news articles and/or letters from partners – limit 4.)

Women's Business Center of Excellence Award

Who is eligible to be nominated for this award?

This award honors a Women's Business Center (WBC) for its excellence and innovation in assisting women entrepreneurs by providing a wide variety of training and counseling. The award should focus on the work of the WBC and not on the host organization or the women's business center director.

Who may submit nominations for this award?

Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community in the United States, including (but not limited to) trade and professional associations and business organizations, may submit nominations for this award. Individual WBCs may not be nominated for more than one award category.

Where are the nominations to be sent?

South Carolina nominations must be submitted to the SBA South Carolina District Office at:

1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1425
Columbia, SC 29201
Attn: Anna Huntley

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations for the Women's Business Center of Excellence Award must be postmarked or hand delivered to the appropriate SBA District Office no later than **December 1, 2011**.

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on *one side* of 8½" x 11" white stationery, collated and secured in a 1½" binder. ***Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.*** All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will include:

1. A single cover page including:
 - the name of the WBC, business addresses with telephone and fax numbers, website, and e-mail address;
 - the WBC director's full name, title, business and home addresses with telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
 - the award for which the nomination is being made;
 - the nominator's name, title, place of business, business address and telephone number and e-mail address;
 - a one-paragraph description of the WBC's services provided.
2. A completed background form (SBA Form 3300), available at <http://www.sba.gov/content/award-nomination-form>.
3. An original 8" x10" or 5"x7" photo of the nominee, or a digital photo that is at least 300 dpi/ppi.

4. A nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and WBC performance that merit the award, not exceeding four pages.
5. A brief biography of the Center Director, not exceeding one page.
6. A business profile, not exceeding one page, including the WBC mission statement, target market, and types of services offered, including any specialized programs or services.
7. Any other supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination. Supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages. Videos will not be considered.
8. A completed SBA Form 2137 Award Nomination Consent Form, available http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/SBA%20Form%202137_0.pdf.

What are the selection procedures for this award?

The Women's Business Center of Excellence Award winner will be selected at the national level. In those states served by more than one WBC, additional nominations may be made. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Nomination packages for each WBC will be prepared for transmittal to the SBA's Office of Communications and Public Liaison for review. The National Women's Business Center for Excellence Award recipient of the Year will be selected by the SBA Administrator based on the recommendations of the agency's National Small Business Week panel of judges. The winner will be announced during National Small Business Week. Non-federal employees serving as judges must sign a conflict of interest/non-disclosure certification.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

In evaluating the nomination packages, the judges will look at the following criteria:

1. **Delivers Results:** Meets or exceeds performance milestones (as reflected in the center's on-site review, the DOTR mid and year-end evaluations, and SBA's data collection system for counseling and training), e.g. long-term clients, businesses created, jobs created/retained, capital infusion, client satisfaction, success stories, etc.
2. **Innovates:** Creates and develops innovative events and/or programs, publications, research materials and online applications to enhance small business awareness and solutions.
3. **Champions:** Advocates for women's entrepreneurship and the overall small business community.
4. **Develops:** Partners with a variety of local, state and other entities (including SBDCs and SCORE) to grow the program through unique collaborations that not only bring in monetary matching funds but also help market the WBC.
5. **Good Standing:** Center must be in good standing with the Office of Women's Business Ownership at SBA headquarters. This includes but is not limited to having no outstanding examination or review findings.

Community/Rural Lender of the Year Award

Following the 2011 Small Business Week awards, the Office of Financial Assistance (OFA) has decided to change one of the awards to better reflect the mission and goals of the Agency in a critical business environment. For the 2011 awards, the District Offices were asked to nominate candidates for the 1st Mortgage Lender of the year. This year OFA has changed that award to recognize an outstanding community or rural lender of the year.

Who is eligible to be nominated?

The award will go to a Community/Rural lender (under \$1B) that has exhibited an ongoing commitment to supporting the growth and expansion of small businesses that are not able to obtain financing on reasonable terms elsewhere.

Who may submit nominations for this award?

Nominations will come from the Office of Field Operations and the district offices.

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be typewritten on *one side* of 8½” x 11” white stationery. ***Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.*** A complete nomination package will include:

1. Cover sheet for award for which the nomination is being made.
2. Nominator’s name and title, district office, telephone and email information.
3. Nomination letter, to include a concise statement of the qualities and performance that merit the award, not exceeding 3 pages.
4. A “Signature” loan that highlights the SBA program used and how it impacted the community.
5. An original 8” X 10” or 5” X 7” photo of the nominee and/or the business.
6. Lender contact information including: name of person who may accept award, address, phone, email.

Note: the successful candidate will be asked to provide a photo for use in Small Business Week promotional materials.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

The candidates should have a presence in their community and utilize several of the SBA loan products, such as the 7(a), SBA Express, etc. The SBA is looking for lenders who definitely make an impact in their communities through the use of SBA loan programs.

Criteria to consider in making nominations:

- *Increase in SBA loan approvals over the past two fiscal years*
- *Use of different SBA loan programs*
- *Use of ARRA to assist area businesses*
- *Signature deals that show SBA’s impact in the community*
- *Outreach and/or increased penetration in underserved constituencies*

Awards with No Nomination Required

National Chapter of the Year (COTY) Award – SCORE

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

Delivering Quality (25 percent)

Methods for the training and orientation of new volunteers, as well as the means of ensuring that all chapters counselors are kept up to date with current business practices and that they are delivering quality, professional counseling, including examples of means designed to improve counseling skills, counselor recognition programs and results. Includes efforts create a rewarding environment for counseling volunteer development and the initiatives directed at increasing volunteer diversity and their results.

Contributions to the Community (25 percent)

Market area, and detailing the chapter's integration into the business communities, including participating and support of the SBA programs and the nature of chapter's alliances with local economic and business organizations.

Client Focus (25 percent)

Commitment to client satisfaction, including the process to retain clients, encourage follow-ups sessions and measure client satisfactions as well as the level of local services as they relate to the chapters market area (LSI) and follow-on levels.

Merit Achievement (25 percent)

Significant achievements of the chapter for the fiscal year that demonstrate the chapter's merit for selection as National Chapter of the Year and how ethical conduct is monitored beyond the annual signatory re-affirmation of compliance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

A committee of 9 SCORE volunteers make the final selection.

The 7(a) Lender of the Year (large and small lender categories)

Large Lender Award: 7(a) lenders with an outstanding loan portfolio with an SBA share of at least \$100 million (as verified by the Office of Credit Risk Management)

Small Lender Award: 7(a) lenders with an outstanding loan portfolio with an SBA share of \$100 million or less (as verified by the Office of Credit Risk Management)

How will candidates be selected?

Lenders will be chosen by the Office of Financial Assistance based upon the criteria listed below and the loan data provided by OCRM.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

- The selection will be based on portfolio performance, and growth in approval volume for the previous fiscal year.
- The lender must have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to supporting the growth and expansion of small businesses (creation and job retention, increased penetration in underserved markets).
- Additional consideration will be given to lenders who utilize numerous SBA loan programs.
- Lender must have a satisfactory OCRM Risk Rating.

504 Certified Development Company Award (large and small lender categories)

Large CDC Award: 504 Certified Development Companies with an outstanding SBA loan portfolio of at least \$100 million (large).

Small CDC Award: 504 Certified Development Companies with an outstanding SBA loan portfolio of less than \$100 million (small)

How will candidates be selected?

CDC's will be chosen by the Office of Financial Assistance based upon the criteria listed below and the loan data provided by OCRM.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

- The selection will be based on portfolio quality, and growth in approval volume for the previous fiscal year.
- The lender must have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to supporting the growth and expansion of small businesses (creation and job retention, increased penetration in underserved markets).
- CDC must have a satisfactory OCRM Risk Rating.

Small Business Investment Company of the Year

Awards are presented to the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) that has used the SBA Debenture program to enhance access to capital for America's small business. More than one SBIC may be selected.

How will candidates be selected?

SBA will solicit nominations from the SBIC community, including portfolio companies and service providers although anyone may submit nominations. The winning SBIC(s) will be chosen by a panel of senior employees within the Investment Division based upon the criteria listed below and will include input from the appropriate analyst within the Office of SBIC Operations.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

- The selection will be based on the fund's overall performance, not just relative to other SBICs but the broader industry within the lower middle market.
- Demonstrated commitment to supporting the growth and expansion of small businesses (including but not necessarily limited to job creation and retention, penetration in underserved markets, commitment to communities served).
- Commitment not just to financial return on investment, but to public focus and well being. Although the entire body of work of the SBIC will be considered, this might also be demonstrated by a specific achievement reflecting positively upon the program and the Agency.
- Positive working relationship with SBA and a clean compliance record.
- Although multiple fund history is not a requirement, a commitment to small businesses by the fund managers over an extended period can be advantageous in the process.

Office of Surety Guarantees Surety Partner of Year

The award is given to the Surety Partner who exhibits and sustains consistent and long-term commitment to assisting small businesses in the construction industry that are not able to obtain bonds in the standard market.

How will candidates be selected?

Surety Partner will be chosen by the Office of Surety Guarantees based upon the criteria below.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria for this award?

- The selection will be based on bond activity from the previous fiscal year
- Timely payment of fees
- Loss ratio

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SBA offices are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. For the office nearest you, look under “U.S. Government” in your telephone directory. Or, visit www.sba.gov, call 1-800-U ASK SB (TDD: 704-344-6640) or e-mail the SBA Answer Desk at answerdesk@sba.gov

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Field Operations Center – West

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