

American Psychiatric Association

1000 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22209
Telephone 703.907.7300
Fax 703.907.1089
E-mail mward@psych.org
Internet www.psych.org

February 2009

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Dear Mental Health Professional:

The American Psychiatric Association's Psychiatric Services Achievement Awards Committee is soliciting applications for the 2009 competition. Please see the attached application form.

The Committee is seeking applications from innovative, ongoing programs of at least two years' duration that (1) offer services to the mentally ill or disabled, (2) have overcome obstacles, and (3) can serve as a model for other programs. Programs can be based in a school, a clinic, a hospital, or the community itself, and can provide unique human resource development, prevention, or administrative models that improve clinical care. The goal of the Achievement Awards is to recognize and publicize national models of creative service delivery. National recognition goes to the winners, including articles in the *Psychiatric Services* journal and *Psychiatric News*. Winners also are invited to participate in a special workshop at the 2009 Institute on Psychiatric Services. Initiated in 1949, this competition is supported by a grant from Pfizer Inc.

Two first prizes will be awarded, each consisting of a plaque and a \$10,000 grant from Pfizer Inc. The Achievement Awards Committee will group and rate the applications under the following categories:

- (1) Academically or institutionally sponsored programs
- (2) Community-based programs.

The Committee also will recognize second and third place winners with awards of \$7,500 and \$5,000 respectively. Awards will be presented in October 2009 at the APA's Institute on Psychiatric Services, New York, New York.

Part of the Awards' evaluation process includes a site visit to the highest ranked programs by a member of the appropriate APA District Branch. These reports are particularly helpful to the Awards Committee in the selection of the Gold Award winners.

Please note that application packets must be received by March 31, 2009. You can obtain additional application forms by calling 703-907-8592 or through APA's Web Site at <http://www.psych.org/achievementawards>. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,



Beatrice M. Kovaszny, M.D.
Chair, 2009 Achievement Awards Committee

P.S. For a list of previous winners, please go to the web site listed above.



AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

2009 Psychiatric Services Achievement Awards Competition

Supported by a grant from Pfizer Inc.

The APA's Psychiatric Services Achievement Awards Committee (the Committee) invites innovative programs that deliver services to the mentally ill or disabled, that have overcome obstacles, and that can serve as models for other programs to apply.

The 2009 Gold Award winners will each receive \$10,000 from Pfizer Inc., a plaque, coverage in two APA publications, *Psychiatric News* and *Psychiatric Services*, and an invitation to participate in a special workshop at the 2009 Institute on Psychiatric Services. The Committee will group and select two Gold Award winners – one from academically or institutionally sponsored programs and one from community-based programs. The Committee also will recognize second and third place winners with awards of \$7,500 and \$5,000, respectively. The awards will be presented at the APA's 61st Institute on Psychiatric Services, which will be held October 2009 in New York, NY.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To be eligible, programs must have been in **full operation for at least two years** before the application deadline and must submit an "Application Packet." **An original plus seven (7) copies of the Application Packet are required.**

The Application Packet includes the following elements. (Please staple or clip the Application Packet together—do **not** use portfolios, file folders, etc., or other presentation devices.) Because the Committee reviews up to 100 applications in a very short period of time, it is in the applicant's best interest to cover each of the items below as thoroughly, clearly, and concisely as possible.

1. **Completed "Application Form."** (see "Application Form" on adjacent page)
2. **Program description.** *The description must be no more than six pages long, typed, double spaced, and printed on one side of the paper only. It must address the following elements.*
 - A. Verification that the submission is an ongoing program.
 - B. Evidence that the program has made a significant contribution to the field of mental health on a local or national level.
 - C. Evidence that the program provides a model for other mental health programs.
 - D. Evidence that the program is innovative.
 - E. Description of ways staff has overcome obstacles and barriers or has extended resources and funding.
 - F. Verification of the program's effectiveness and focus on quality improvement through use of quality assurance measures, quality improvement methods, UR, outcome measures, etc.
 - G. Documentation of the program's staffing and the role of each staff member, including the role of the psychiatrist in the program.
 - H. Documentation of involvement of consumers and/or family members.
3. **A list of the program's funding sources.** Provide a list of funding sources during the last fiscal year and the amounts of the funding.
4. **Supporting materials [optional].** E.g., abstracts of research studies, publications, photographs, and news clippings. *(Supporting materials may not exceed 10 pages and should be relevant. Please do not send tapes, CDs or DVDs.)*

Program finalists will receive an on-site visit by a representative from the local branch of the American Psychiatric Association.

Deadline: Applications must be received by March 31, 2009. Please send to:

Beatrice M. Kovaszny, M.D.
Chair, Psychiatric Services Achievement Awards Committee
American Psychiatric Association
1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22209

