

NONPROFIT NEW YORK

Nonprofit Excellence Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

- QUESTION:** Is my organization eligible if we are an international nonprofit? **ANSWER:** The Awards competition is open to any 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in the New York City area: **Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Nassau County, Suffolk County, and Westchester County.** National and international nonprofit organizations are eligible, but the application must focus on management activities in the New York City area.
- QUESTION:** Can my organization win if we have only *one* example of excellence in nonprofit management? Is it “worth it” to apply? **ANSWER:** In order to be recognized, you must show examples of excellence in many areas of nonprofit management. It may be worth applying if you value expert feedback on your management strategies!
- QUESTION:** If my organization applies and does not make it to round two, is it realistic for us to bother to apply again? **ANSWER:** Yes! We encourage organizations to apply for the award again, especially if your management practices have strengthened.
- QUESTION:** Will having strong programs and services compensate for average management practices? **ANSWER:** No. This program rewards excellence in nonprofit management, including but not limited to program management. Program information is useful only when it provides context for management achievements.
- QUESTION:** Will the Selection Committee favor only new/established, small/large, or local/national scope organizations? **ANSWER:** The Selection Committee seeks excellence in nonprofit management regardless of the organization’s age, size or purpose. (Start-up nonprofits are eligible, but the application and awards process focuses on management track record and results, not future plans.)
- QUESTION:** Must my organization have gone through a *major* crisis or turnaround in order to win? **ANSWER:** The Selection Committee will value organizations with consistent, solid management, as well as organizations that grow and become great after a management crisis.
- QUESTION:** My organization is not widely known, so do we have a chance? **ANSWER:** The Selection Committee considers what is written in your application, rather than the organization’s name or stature in the community. The Selection Committee is firmly committed to judging all applicants fairly.
- QUESTION:** Is it really worth so much work to complete the application? **ANSWER:** Many past participants have recognized the value of self-assessment and report that their organizations benefited from the process. Applicants will receive detailed feedback on their applications, including summaries of Selection Committee comments about the organization’s management strengths and weaknesses.
- QUESTION:** Won’t the Selection Committee know who is going to win even before they see the applications? **ANSWER:** No. The Selection Committee’s selections are based on the information included in submitted written applications and presented during in-person meetings. New members are added to the Selection Committee each year and the applicant pool is never the same.

10. **QUESTION:** If one type of organization wins this year, can we assume a different type will win next year?
ANSWER: No. The Selection Committee does not focus on program area or size when making a decision. However, the Selection Committee is committed to identifying management excellence in a diverse group of organizations.
11. **QUESTION:** Who should be involved in preparing our application? **ANSWER:** The strongest applications are from those organizations where discussion and reflective time has been invested by staff, board, volunteers and other stakeholders prior to completing the application. We would hope that the Nonprofit Excellence Awards application questions will stimulate this work!

We've developed a [tip sheet](#) to help you craft your answers based on what the Selection Committee is looking for.

Have other questions? Please contact Lakimja Mattocks, Chief Programs Officer, at lmattocks@nonprofitnewyork.org or (646) 893-1933.