

Awards Nomination Form

Statewide Peer Networking Awards

This nomination form will be used to identify potential award recipients for the awards listed below, all to be given at the upcoming Statewide Peer Networking Awards event this spring (exact date/location to be determined shortly). Use this form to nominate someone who you think should be recognized! **PLEASE NOTE:** Only one nomination per form, but you may ultimately nominate as many people you like (using a separate form for each). All nominations must be submitted by March 13 at 5pm. Forms submitted on-line at tiny.cc/PNAwards are strongly preferred, but if using this paper version, please submit it to info@westernmassrlc.org or by mail to Western Mass RLC, 187 High Street, Suite 202, Holyoke, MA 01040. Please give as much detail as possible about the person you are nominating. We don't need essays, but we need enough to understand their work and why they are a fit for the award you've selected!! **ALL NOMINEES MUST LIVE AND/OR WORK IN MASSACHUSETTS OR HAVE LIVED/WORKED IN MASSACHUSETTS IN RECENT PAST.**

Section 1:

Name of Person You're Nominating: _____

Organization: _____

What is their job title/role: _____

Is this a provider or peer role: PROVIDER PEER OTHER (please explain below)

Is this a volunteer or paid role: VOLUNTEER PAID

How long have they worked in this role: _____

What is their phone number: _____

What is their e-mail: _____

Section 2:

Circle the award for which you are nominating this person (one award per person):

Ally Award

Change Agent - Peer

Change Agent - Provider

Exceptional Volunteerism

Innovation

Lifetime Achievement

Social Justice

Up & Comer

See the back of this sheet for explanations of each award.

Please attach a statement about why you believe this person should win this award. Please be sure to include information about the work they've done, how it relates to peer-to-peer support and/or furthering the development of peer roles in the region. Your statement should be at least one full paragraph (minimum of five sentences), and no more than one page. **Please be sure to type or print clearly, as illegible nomination forms or forms that don't include the attached paragraph will be disregarded.**

Your name: _____

Your phone number: _____

Your e-mail address: _____

Your relationship to the person you're nominating: _____

Are you okay with the person you're nominating knowing who you are and what you said about them in your nomination? (Circle One) **YES NO**

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY 5PM ON FRIDAY, MARCH 13th. Forms may be returned to info@westernmassrlc.org, or by mail to Western Mass Peer Network, C/O, Western Mass RLC, 187 High Street, Suite 202, Holyoke, MA 01040. An on-line version of this form is also available at tiny.cc/PNAwards.

Below are the descriptions of each award category for the first Statewide Peer Networking awards, a collaboration between the Western Mass Peer Network, the Eastern Mass Peer Network and people working in peer roles across the state. Please begin your nomination using the form on the reverse side you can make your nomination online at tiny.cc/PNAwards.

- **Ally Award:** The Ally Award will go to someone who is not working in a formal 'peer' role, and may be working outside of the formal mental health system altogether (e.g., professors, journalists, faith/spiritual leaders, etc.). They will have demonstrated a strong commitment to valuing the voice of people who have 'been there,' and will have consistently played a supporting role in creating space, changing minds, and furthering the reach of this work.
- **Change Agent Award - Peer Role:** This award will go to someone who has been working in a paid peer role connected in some way (directly or indirectly) to the traditional mental health system for at least one year. In that role, they will have demonstrated a fearlessness in challenging belief systems in combination with tremendous skill in building bridges and finding allies.
- **Change Agent Award - Provider Role:** This award will go to someone who has been working in a conventional mental health provider environment (e.g. clinician, administrator, direct support worker, etc.) for at least one year. In that role, they will have demonstrated a willingness to challenge old standards and an absolute commitment to supporting the organization to move forward in new and creative ways that are consistent with building a values-driven, trauma-informed, person-centered approach that opens the door to peer roles and other innovations.
- **Exceptional Volunteerism Award:** This award will go to someone who has been exceptionally giving of their time in a peer role on a volunteer basis. Their activities may include organizing events, serving on committees, facilitating groups, etc. Regardless of their activity, their time and energy has come to be invaluable to the organization or community of which they are a part.
- **Innovation Award:** This award will go to someone who has been working in a paid peer role and who has played an instrumental role in the development and implementation of a particular project related to peer-to-peer work or values. This can include a new type of group, a one-time event, an educational or outreach initiative, etc. (Be sure to describe the innovation in detail!)
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** This award will go to someone who identifies as having first-hand experience being given a psychiatric diagnosis, surviving trauma, being homeless, having problems with substances, being incarcerated (in jail and/or psychiatric hospitals), and/or navigating other life-interrupting challenges. This person is also someone whose work and dedication in support of peer roles, advocacy, activism, human rights, etc. has touched many. Their contributions have been wide reaching and exceptional and will have long lasting impact.
- **Social Justice Award:** The roots of peer support are inextricably linked to social justice work. This award will go to someone working in a paid or unpaid role who has made notable contributions toward undoing systemic oppression, and increasing voice and choice in our local communities. This can include work related directly to psychiatric oppression or any of the many oppressions with which it intersects including racism, homophobia, transphobia, and so on.
- **Up & Comer Award:** This award will go to someone who has been working in a paid or volunteer peer role for around one year or less, but who has really 'jumped in' and gotten involved. They have lots of ideas, and/or the willingness to help out with a variety of tasks and projects. They really stand out as having the potential to impact this work in great ways in years to come!

BE SURE TO REMEMBER TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU ARE NOMINATING SOMEONE FOR A PARTICULAR AWARD. HOW DO THEY FIT OR EXEMPLIFY THE DESCRIPTION ABOVE??