

## Washington State Hospital Association's Rural Quality Everyday Extraordinary Award

Honoring rural commitment to quality improvement.

### About

WSHA's mission is to lead, challenge and assist hospitals to improve the health of their communities. Our rural members often demonstrate exceptional resourcefulness, teamwork and creativity when tackling quality improvement (QI) aims. In effort to recognize rural hospitals demonstrating exceptional dedication to quality, we invite eligible facilities to apply for the WSHA Rural Quality Everyday Extraordinary Award.

Qualified submissions will demonstrate successful implementation of strategies that have produced performance improvement related to patient safety. This may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Improving access to care for vulnerable patients (e.g. patients who are pregnant, parenting, geriatric; those who have behavior health or substance use disorders)
- Reducing adverse events (e.g. medication errors, falls, pressure ulcers, infections)
- Addressing root causes of near miss, adverse or sentinel events (e.g. communication, workflow, human factor innovation, reconfiguration of space)
- Using multidisciplinary teams to implement new strategies for emerging patient health needs (e.g. sepsis response teams, COVID-19, multi-visit patient readmissions)
- Managing population health across the care continuum (e.g. diabetes, complex case management, COPD)

### Eligibility

All rural WSHA member hospitals and health systems are invited to participate. Multiple applications from the same organization are accepted.

### How to Apply

Applications are submitted in narrative form by uploading your application via this [form](#). Ensure all sections specified below have been included in the narrative, only complete applications will be considered for award. Application sections are as follows:

1. Cover page containing the following information:
  - Hospital or healthcare system name and address
  - Name, title, email address and phone number of contact person
  - Name, title of executive sponsor
  - Title of application
2. Executive summary or abstract (limit 200 words)
3. Background and relevance of the problem being addressed. Include qualitative and quantitative data if relevant.

4. Describe the quality improvement project. Include a description of the implementation team, resources used, SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely) and any quality improvement methodology used for example rapid cycles, RPIWs, LEAN. Note any challenges encountered and how they were overcome.
5. Report any results achieved. Will the project be redesigned, sustained or scaled up?
6. (Optional, not scored) Share lessons learned and any advice to rural hospitals who may undertake similar efforts. Include any strengths of the team or project that contributed to its success.

Applicants are welcome to include supplemental materials in support of their application, such as graphics, data displays, photographs.

## Scoring Criteria

A panel of experts with demonstrated experience executing quality improvement projects in a hospital or healthcare setting, will review and score each complete application using the following criteria:

- **Significance:** How significant is the problem being addressed? For example, does this project improve care for a population that is traditionally underserved or vulnerable?
- **Data-driven approach:** How was data (qualitative and quantitative) used to inform design and impact of the QI project?
- **Culture of safety:** How well does the project demonstrate a culture of safety? For example, does this project engage staff across departments? Improve transparency? Recognize and promote participation in quality improvement projects?
- **Results:** What was achieved or learned and how does this inform next steps?
- **Scalability:** Perceived value to other rural hospitals and likelihood of wider adoption and spread. This includes potential application of the project's approach to other clinical areas.

## Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted by uploading your application via this [form](#) by April 1, 2024 for consideration for the Rural Quality Everyday Extraordinary Award.

## Award Notification

Awards will be given out at WSHA's 2024 Rural Hospital Leadership Conference.

## Contact

For questions regarding the WSHA Rural Quality Everyday Extraordinary Award, please contact Megan Herman at [MeganH@wsha.org](mailto:MeganH@wsha.org).