

2026 REGIONAL SUPPORT ASSOCIATES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATION FORM

Each year, Regional Support Associates presents an award that recognizes the exemplary commitment and support provided by people who work in the field of intellectual disabilities/dual diagnosis.

The RSA Award of Excellence is presented to a direct support professional or team who demonstrated outstanding skills, attributes, accomplishments, and achievements that align with Ontario's Developmental Services Core Competencies.

Criteria	Example
Advocating for Others	Recognizing the importance of amplifying the voices of the person supported and creating space for them to advocate on their own. Promotes and protects the rights, choices and interests of people they are supporting. Supports self-determination, citizenship, and community inclusion.
Facilitating Growth and Development	Supporting individuals and colleagues to learn, develop skills, and achieve their goals. Encourage independence and personal growth.
Problem Solving and Decision Making	Using sound judgement, critical thinking and creativity to address challenges. Making person-centered decisions that balance safety, rights, and quality of life. It includes "thinking outside the box" to go beyond the conventional, and to explore creative solutions.
Valuing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)	Social competence to understand and respect the practices, customs and values of all people and cultures. Ability to work effectively with a diverse community and be aware of current societal issues. Demonstrating cultural humility and inclusive practices. Recognizing and addressing barriers to participation and belonging.
Inclusive Leadership	Foster an inclusive and positive environment, where people feel valued, respected and empowered. This is done through coaching, mentoring and motivating others towards a vision, commitment, and goals. The ability to demonstrate leadership at all levels, regardless of position.
Championing Change and Innovation	It involves an open mindset to understand, appreciate and empathize with different and opposing perspectives, while supporting continuous improvement and positive change. Demonstrating a personal commitment to change through actions and words. Embracing new ideas, practices and approaches.
Building Relationships	Building relationships is about intentionally collaborating to develop trusting, respectful relationships with people supported, families, colleagues, and community partners. Fostering collaboration and belonging within each of these relationships.
Resource Management	Responsibly managing time, funding, staffing, information and other resources. Ensuring resources are used effectively to support quality outcomes.
Resilience	Maintaining effectiveness during change, stress and uncertainty. Demonstrating adaptability, self-awareness, and perseverance.

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Strategic Thinking

Looking beyond immediate issues to consider long-term impacts and opportunities.
Aligning actions with organizational and sector goals.

Who Is Eligible for Nomination?

Direct Support Professional Group or Team

You can nominate a peer, co-worker, employee, volunteer, etc.

The efforts of nominees must have an impact within the RSA catchment area.

Nominee (please print below)

Name:

Agency:

Telephone:

Email:

Nominating Person(s) (please print below)

Name(s):

Agency:

Telephone:

Email:

Please attach a narrative summary that clearly describes how the nominee embodies the attributes above.

NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE EMAILED NO LATER THAN October 1, 2026

RSA Award of Excellence

RSA Administrative service: Email: rsaadmin@woodstockhospital.ca

The award will be presented virtually on October 22, 2026