



2009 Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership's

CQIA Innovation Prize Requirements:

Application Requirements: On your first letterhead stationery, please give your application a title followed by a short phrase explaining the innovation. Applications are limited to **one** 8 x 11 inch, with no less than 10 point font size having ½ inch margins all sides of typewritten page that includes the following three sections:

- 1) Opportunity/Problem:** A description of organizational problem solved or opportunity leveraged by innovation
- 2) Innovative Response/Solution:** a) A clear and concise description of a new product, service, or process innovation introduced in the last five years, and b) why you consider it innovative in the marketplace or your industry.
- 3) Results:** Using numbers show how this innovation benefited your organization. Examples are expenses saved, increased sales/members/enrollment, improved customer satisfaction ratings. Although greatest emphasis is placed on the innovation, no application will be considered without historical numerical results.
All winning applications will be published in the 2009 CQIA Innovation Prize Winning Applications benchmarking book.

On the cover sheet written on your second piece of stationery – using **one** sheet for each CIP application -- please list the name, title, company, address, telephone number and e-mail address, as well as signature of the following **three** people: 1) the organization's highest ranking officer, 2) the contact person who wrote the application, and 3) the person who will speak at the 2009 CQIA conference for this particular application if it reaches the gold or platinum level. Also include the number of organization employees in Connecticut and a statement that all applications may be copied and distributed for use by The Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership, Inc.

Fee: \$150 each included with the application, check made payable to Connecticut Quality Improvement Award -- 501(c)(3) Federal tax ID 061231938 -- and mailed to CQIA, PO Box 1396, Stamford, CT 06904-1396.

The Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not for profit Connecticut organization, receives no funds from either state or federal government. All funding comes from Sponsors, application fees and conference registration.

Deadline: Applications must be postmarked no later than **Tuesday, April 14, 2009**. For clarification, draft submissions must be e-mailed to cqia@aol.com no later than **Tuesday, April 7, 2009**. Winners will be notified by July 7, 2009.

If after five business days since mailing a CQIA Innovation Prize application, you do not receive an e-mail acknowledgement, immediately contact Sheila Carmine at 203 322-9534.

Judges: A minimum of 15 CQIA 2009 Examiners trained in the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Criteria for Performance Excellence. To receive information about becoming a CQIA Examiner, please contact Sheila Carmine, Founder and Executive Director, 203 322-9534.

Prizes: Winners will be recognized on three levels based on careful and thorough understanding and completion of the three application requirements listed above. The three levels are Silver, Gold and the highest, Platinum. The selection of award winners at Platinum, Gold, or Silver levels involves a comparison with other applications. It is, by necessity, a subjective task based on the experience and judgment of the examiners although historically it has been shown that the highest level awards involve applications with at least some of the following characteristics: a) a new or significant improvement for the creating or adopting organization; b) a novel product, service or process, and c) potential for long-term impact or fostering ongoing innovation.

22nd Anniversary Conference: All winning applications will be published in 2009 Connecticut best practices book, Connecticut's fourteenth benchmarking book that will be distributed along with recognition plaques and photographs at The Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership's 22nd Annual Conference on Quality and Innovation, Friday, October 23, 2009 at Water's Edge Resort in Westbrook. Senior leadership from Platinum and Gold winning organizations may be requested to speak at the 2009 Conference and will be invited to serve with CQIA's 2010/2011 Advisory Group.

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Information:

For additional clarification and assistance with preparing CQIA Innovation Prize applications, please contact:

Sheila Carmine,
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The Connecticut Quality
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Partnership, Inc.

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