



# Cowlitz County Health and Human Services

PHONE: 360-414-5599 FAX: 360-425-7531

WEBSITE: [www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/HHS](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/HHS)

Main Campus: 1952 9th Avenue, Longview, WA 98632 [AskCowlitzHealth@CowlitzWA.gov](mailto:AskCowlitzHealth@CowlitzWA.gov)

Environmental Health Unit: 207 4th Avenue North, Kelso, WA 98626 [OMSeptic@CowlitzWA.gov](mailto:OMSeptic@CowlitzWA.gov)

## 2026 Together We Can *Awards of Excellence Nomination Form*

Do you know of a person or business making an impact in the lives of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities? Nominate them for one of our Awards of Excellence! Awards will be presented at the 2026 Together We Can Conference on April 24, 2026. See categories below. **Nominations close on March 31, 2026.**

Questions? Contact Sue Saxton at [SaxtonS@CowlitzWA.gov](mailto:SaxtonS@CowlitzWA.gov).

### **2026 Award Categories:**

**Outstanding Community Connection Award:** This award is presented to a professional or volunteer who fosters opportunities for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. This individual helps individuals thrive in their school, community, workplace and in life by connecting them to opportunities to build relationships and make contributions.

**Outstanding Direct Support Professional Award:** This award recognizes excellence in providing exceptional care and support to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, ensuring they lead fulfilling lives and are empowered to achieve their goals. This award is presented in memory of Sarah Anderson, whose compassion and dedication endure.

**Outstanding Employee Award:** Employers are encouraged to nominate their employee who has demonstrated excellence in the workplace. This award is presented to an individual receiving employment support who has demonstrated excellent job performance. This may be in the areas of productivity, acquisition of new skills, work habits, customer service and contributing to a positive workplace.

**Outstanding Employer Award:** This award recognizes excellence and leadership as an employer of an individual or individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. This employer demonstrates exceptional commitment to inclusivity and creates a supportive work environment that allows the individual(s) to be successful and contribute to the company's success.

**Outstanding Employment Specialist Award:** This award is presented to an employment specialist or job coach who demonstrates dedication, creativity, and professionalism in helping individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities thrive in the work force.

**Outstanding Paraprofessional Award:** This award recognizes the exceptional contributions of paraprofessionals who play a vital role in supporting teachers and enhancing the learning experience for students with intellectual/developmental disabilities. This award honors individuals who demonstrate dedication, expertise, and a strong commitment to students' academic success and personal growth.

**Outstanding Self Advocate Award:** This award recognizes an individual with intellectual/developmental disabilities who uses their skills, talents, and unique abilities to have a positive impact on others and their community.

**Outstanding Teacher Award:** This award recognizes a teacher of students with intellectual/developmental disabilities who inspires students to achieve both their academic and personal goals. This award honors teachers who go above and beyond in creating an inspiring and positive learning environment that celebrates the unique gifts of each student.



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## 2026 Together We Can Awards of Excellence Nomination Form Nomination Deadline: March 31, 2026

### SUBMISSION OPTIONS

- **Email:** [SaxtonS@CowlitzWA.gov](mailto:SaxtonS@CowlitzWA.gov)
- **Fax:** 360.425.7531 (Attn: Sue Saxton)
- **Mail/Hand Delivery:**  
Cowlitz County Health & Human Services (Attn: Sue Saxton)  
1952 9th Ave, Longview, WA 98632

### NOMINEE INFORMATION

#### Award Category (*check one*):

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Outstanding Community Connection        | Outstanding Employment Specialist |
| Outstanding Direct Support Professional | Outstanding Paraprofessional      |
| Outstanding Employee                    | Outstanding Self Advocate         |
| Outstanding Employer                    | Outstanding Teacher               |

**Nominee's Name:**

**Organization/Business (if any):**

**Daytime Phone:**

**Email:**

#### Why are you nominating this person/business?

Describe their unique qualities, actions, and impact related to the award:

### NOMINATOR INFORMATION

**Nominator's Name:**

**Organization/Business:**

**Daytime Phone:**

**Email:**