

Join us as we recognize the success, impact and commitment to excellence of the finalists and winners.

CenterState CEO's Business of the Year Awards celebrate companies and organizations that have achieved growth and gone above and beyond in the past year to distinguish themselves as leaders in the business community.

The following outlines all application questions, eligibility criteria and supporting-documentation requirements for the 2027 CenterState CEO Business of the Year Awards. Fields ending with a * are required. This PDF is not the application itself, rather a guide for you to help pre-plan your answers on the official form.

- Official Application, including **Eligibility** information and award **Criteria**
- **For more information, contact Lisa Metot at 315-470-1870**

Note: Information in this submission form may be used in public-facing CenterState CEO communications about applicants, finalists and winners. Please do not share proprietary information, photos or supporting documentation. If there is information you feel is strongly relevant to your application and organization's success in the past year but that you do not want shared publicly, please state that clearly in the response boxes below.

ABOUT THE APPLICANT

- **Business/Organization Name***
- **Category***

  Please select one of the following:

  - Businesses with Fewer than 50 Employees
  - Businesses with More than 50 Employees
  - Nonprofit
  - Community Involvement
  - Minority-Owned Business

- **Is your Business/Organization part of the CenterState CEO Network? (a CenterState CEO or GOFCC member, or an INSPYRE Innovation Hub client or tenant)***

  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure

- **Is your organization currently certified, or seeking certification, as a minority and/or women-owned business enterprise (MBE, WBE, MWBE), disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE), or service-disabled veteran-owned small business (SDVOB)? Please specify.**

- **Principal Officer** CEO/President/Executive Director

  - First Name*
  - Last Name*
  - Email *

- **Business Address**

  - Address*
  - City*
  - State / Province*
  - ZIP / Postal Code*
  - Phone*

- **Submitted By**

  - First Name *
  - Last Name *
  - Email *

- **Number of Employees*** Please provide employees at Central New York location(s).
- **Year Founded*** Please specify the year the company or organization was first founded/opened in Central New York.

GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENTS

Company Growth & Achievements in 2027* (Must select one or more)

- **Added Employees:** If you added employees, how many? Please use a numeral only.
- **Expanded or Relocated Due to Growth Within the Central New York Region:** If you had an expansion of space in the region, what was the Sq. Ft.?
- **Made Capital Expenditures Due to Growth in Central New York:** If you made capital expenditures due to growth, please specify a dollar amount of how much was invested.
- **Received State or National Recognition:** If your organization received state or national recognition, please specify.
- **Opened a New Business or Opened New Location(s) This Year:** Please specify if you opened/started a new business, or opened additional location(s)/facilities.
- **Celebrated a Significant Milestone Anniversary (10+ Years in Business):** Please specify the anniversary milestone being celebrated in 2027 (20th, 50th, etc.).
- **Other:** Please briefly describe your organization's growth/achievements in the past year. *

Products & Services*

Describe your company's major products and/or services. Please note how those products and services have grown, improved or evolved in the past year, or if you have entered new domestic or international markets.

Customer/Client Satisfaction*

How satisfied are your customers? Please describe how your company measures customer satisfaction, including referrals and testimonials where possible, noting any improvements in the past year.

Financial Performance* *Required if applying in the Businesses with Fewer than 50 Employees, Businesses with More than 50 Employees or Minority-Owned Business categories.*

Provide information on growth, sales and profits in the past year. Please also note if you have undergone a significant financial transaction, such as an IPO, merger or acquisition, that has or will positively impact the company.

Fiscal Stewardship/Fundraising* *Required if applying in the Nonprofit or Community Involvement categories.*

Describe how your company/organization has demonstrated fiscal responsibility as a community steward, successfully fundraised to support community events and programs in the past year, and used sound business practices to ensure strong financial performance. Please also note any notable grants received or increases in the organization's donor base in the past year.

Innovation*

What distinguishes your company from others? What creative things have you done in the past year to drive business growth, expand products or services, or create new business opportunities or opportunities for your clients, customers or community stakeholders?

Employer of Choice/Employee Satisfaction

Describe how you recruit, retain and develop employees, noting particular positive progress or improvements in the past year.

GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENTS cont...

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Has your company launched or engaged in diversity, equity and inclusion efforts within your organization or community, such as DEI trainings; changes in hiring, recruitment and retention practices; staff professional development opportunities; charitable giving to DEI-focused initiatives; or procurement of MWBE firms? If so, please describe.

Community Commitment & Leadership* *Required if applying in the Businesses with Fewer than 50 Employees, Businesses with More than 50 Employees or Minority-Owned Business categories.*

Describe how your company/organization demonstrates community leadership; share major community activities in which the company/organization has been involved in over the past year, including support of events and programs, and how employees engaged in those efforts through participation and service hours.

Community Impact* *Required if applying in the Nonprofit or Community Involvement categories.*

If you are a nonprofit, describe your organization's mission and its impact on stakeholders or the greater Central New York community over the past year. Quantify results where possible. Share how your organization has demonstrated a strong commitment to service delivery, excellence in client/customer service and community impact.

If you are a business, describe how your company has demonstrated community leadership. Share major community activities in which the company has been involved over the past year, including support of events and programs, and how employees engaged in those efforts through participation and service hours.

PHOTOS & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Nominees are strongly encouraged to submit their logo and high-resolution photos of their business, achievements, product or other images indicative of their success and accomplishments this year. Other documents supporting your submission may also be included.

Logo

Please submit a high-resolution file of your logo, in JPEG, EPS, PNG or SVG format. You can submit up to 5 files.

Photos

Please submit up to 10 high-resolution images of your business/organization showing accomplishments in the past year.

Supporting Documentation

Please submit any applicable supporting documentation in PDF or Word format.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that submitted information — responses, photos and documentation — may potentially be used in public-facing CenterState CEO communications about applicants, finalists and winners to promote the award and recognition event. I have clearly noted any information that is proprietary or should not be shared publicly, but that is relevant to my application.*