

Baldrige Changes Will Increase Applications for State Awards to MassExcellence

Dear Alliance Members-

The Baldrige Performance Excellence Program is announcing changes to our eligibility requirements starting in 2012.

As you all know, the decision by Congress to eliminate our federal funding is forcing the Program to rapidly adopt a new business model. What you may not be aware of is that we have been exploring ways to become less dependent upon federal funds for much longer.

After many meetings and discussions with our key stakeholders over the past year or so it became clear that the best way to ensure long term sustainability of the Baldrige Program was to work to ensure the sustainability of the entire Baldrige enterprise, leveraging the strengths of all parties and finding efficiencies through a systems perspective.

With this in mind, the Baldrige Program is enacting changes to our eligibility requirements that will formalize the de facto feeder system that currently exists between the Alliance award programs and the national award program. Starting in 2012, in order to be eligible for the national award, organizations must meet our existing requirements AND one of the following conditions:

- Has received the top-tier award from an Alliance member award program within the past 5 years
- Is a previous Baldrige Award recipient
- Has received a site visit at the national level within the past 5 years
- Has received a combined scoring band range of 8 or better (e.g., process band 4 and results band 4) in the past 5 years
- Has 25% or more of their employees/staff outside of their organization's home state
- There is no Alliance member program available for their organization

There are additional details available on the award application web page
http://www.nist.gov/baldrige/publications/award_application.cfm

We have not made this decision lightly, but believe it is not only necessary but an important step towards a brighter Baldrige future. We have called all affected applicants from 2010 and 2011 to personally make them aware of these changes and wanted to let you know asap as well. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 301-975-4781 or robert.fangmeyer@nist.gov.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Baldrige.