



# Thomas Awards Nomination Rules

## Thomas Awards – Nomination Rules

### Celebrating Excellence in Direct Support

To ensure a fair and meaningful selection process, please review and follow the rules below when submitting your nomination:

#### Eligibility

- Nominees must be current Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) working in Ohio.
- Individuals must actively work in a direct support role serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Self-nominations will not be accepted.
- Nominees must be working as a Direct Support Professional (including Independent Providers) employed at the time of the event: September 12, 2025.

#### Nomination Process

- Each nomination must include:
  - The DSP's full name and employer (or county, if Independent Provider)
  - Contact information for the nominee and nominator
- Choose one of the selected NADSP Competency areas to nominate the DSP for. (Only ONE nomination per person.)
- Write a detailed description of how the nominee exceeds skills listed under that specific competency area. The more information, the better. Nominations may include pictures, videos, and testimonials/stories that demonstrate the DSP's impact.

#### Nomination Rules

- Nominations must be submitted online by 5:00 PM EST on August 15, 2025.
- Only one nominee per submission.
- Incomplete nominations will be disqualified.

## **Award Categories**

There are 10 award categories, each corresponding to a select NADSP Competency Areas. One winner will be chosen for each category.

## **Notification and Recognition**

- Winners will be notified by email in advance of the event.
- Winners will be recognized publicly at the DSP Recognition Event on September 12, 2025.
- If a winner is unable to attend, a representative may accept the award on their behalf.
- Descriptive content from nominations (excluding contact info) may be shared publicly on OADSP's website, social media, or event materials.

## **Confidentiality**

- Contact information will remain confidential and used only for notification purposes.
  - Descriptions and stories submitted may be edited for clarity or length before being publicized.
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