

2026

THE **POWER**
CONFERENCE

Award Applicant Guide

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the POWER Award Application process, designed to take a thoughtful, holistic look at how organizations show up across People, Opportunity, Workforce, Excellence, and Retention. The POWER Awards are not about perfection; they are about intention, progress, and the real work it takes to build strong, people-centered organizations.

At the Chamber, we are committed to strengthening our region by recognizing employers and organizations that invest in their people, create pathways to opportunity, and contribute to a workforce where individuals and businesses can thrive together. This application is an opportunity to reflect on your practices, share your story, and highlight how your work is shaping a stronger Omaha.

Sincerely,

Dell Nared

Dnared@OmahaChamber.org



Timeline

June: Award Application Questions PDF and Award Applicant Guide PDF posted on Omaha Chamber's website

Thursday, June 25: Application Opens

Friday, July 17: Application Closes at 11:59 pm (No extensions)

Wednesday, September 2: Honorees will be notified

October TBD: Award Ceremony (separate from POWER Conference)

Thursday, October 8: POWER Conference



Pro Tips

- Read Applicant Guide Instructions (PDF on Chamber website) before starting. The application submission process must be completed **in one sitting**. It is not possible to save work and come back later.
- To be eligible for points, relevant evidence **MUST** be provided for **EACH** question.
 - You may upload up to 5 items per question.
 - Each upload can be up to 1 MB in size.
- Evidence must be clearly identified for our judges.
 - **Do not include links to websites or documents. Screenshots of evidence on websites or internal sites are best.** If you are submitting materials from a handbook as evidence, screenshot the information specific to each question.
 - **Do not submit your handbook in its entirety.**
- Develop a **naming convention** for each piece of evidence, i.e., PeopleQ1

More Pro Tips

- Start early
- Use the Application Questions PDF on the Chamber website to prepare your materials before the submission window opens
- Establish a team to write responses, identify and gather evidence (This group offers diverse experiences and ideas to address the questions)

Create a shared folder to save evidence, which will help when working through the submission process

- Redacting – If you submit documentation or language that could be sensitive in nature, please redact the evidence prior to submitting

Final Pro Tips

- Again, the application submission process must be completed **in one sitting**. It is not possible to save work and come back later.
- Anticipate about **1 hour** to complete the *submission* process. This is based on the assumption that all your evidence is saved in one folder and properly labeled.
- Copy/Paste all written answers in a separate document to **save record of your responses**.
- No extensions will be allowed.
- Each application will be reviewed by at least 2 judges.

Thank You

Thank you again for your interest in the POWER Award Application.

We encourage you to approach this process honestly and thoughtfully. If questions come up as you work through the submission, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to support you every step of the way and appreciate the time and care you're putting into this work.

Sincerely,
Dell Nared
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