



## **Recognition of COVID Heroes**

In the last 15 months, the COVID pandemic has challenged people in ways that many would not have imagined possible. People with developmental disabilities and those who support them dealt with complete disruptions of routines and personal freedoms which tested all our vulnerabilities. From the beginning of the pandemic, everyone was required to learn new ways to do simple things. For example, appropriate hand washing, how to use Zoom in place of face-to-face meetings, how to keep people safe while isolated in their homes for their own protection, all while keeping connected to loved ones and staying positive.

Throughout these past months, many COVID Heroes emerged. Those who stepped up to the plate when it mattered most. Those who helped the rest of us get to the other side of this unprecedented event.

We would like to recognize your hero and are asking for your story. In addition, we are inviting you to nominate your hero for the COVID Hero award. This award will be presented at the South Dakota Conference on Developmental Disabilities in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, at the Ramkota, Sept 28-30th, 2021. Anyone can nominate and be nominated for this award.

Whoever your hero is, we want to hear about it! Whether that is a person receiving services, a family member, a Direct Support Provider, a nurse, Case Manager, a supervisor, a service provider or anyone whose heroism during the pandemic positively affected the day-to-day services of people with disabilities. We want to hear your story of how your hero had an impact.

Our intent is to select one award winner from the submitted nominations and publish all stories to share at the conference. Please submit your story and if nominating someone, complete the form attached. Stories and nominations must be submitted by September 1st, 2021. Nominations are not required to submit your story. A nomination form must be completed and submitted for consideration of the COVID Heroes award.

**SOUTH DAKOTA CONFERENCE ON  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
***DISCOVERING POSSIBILITIES***



**2021 COVID-19 HERO AWARD**

**Referral Guidelines**

1. This one-time award recognizes a person, or organization, who has worked throughout the pandemic to ensure access to services and/or promote the health and wellbeing of persons with disabilities within the state of South Dakota.
2. Nominee or their designee will make every effort to accept the award in person, providing travel and lodging costs are not prohibitive.

**Person Submitting Nomination**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe how this person/service provider has gone above and beyond serving and enhancing the lives of people with disabilities during the 2020 pandemic:**

**For CD Use Only**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Assigned to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

**Please return to:**

**Mail –** Tova Hartle  
Center for Disabilities  
1400 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
(605) 357-1430

**Email –** [tova.hartle@usd.edu](mailto:tova.hartle@usd.edu)