

Awards and Letter of Recognition Criteria and Process

ADA/ASTDD/CDC FLUORIDATION AWARD CRITERIA

Background

Good oral health is an integral element of overall health. Community water fluoridation is the process of adjusting the fluoride content that occurs naturally in a community's water to the recommended level for oral health. Community water fluoridation is the single most effective and efficient means for preventing dental caries in children and adults regardless of socio-economic status. Community water fluoridation should be the foundation of oral disease prevention or treatment programs in areas with a community water supply.

Recognizing the significance of community water fluoridation to dental public health, the American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP), the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), jointly acknowledge states, communities, organizations or individuals with fluoridation awards on a yearly basis. The Fluoridation Awards Committee consists of representatives from the ADA/CAAP, ASTDD and CDC.

Fluoridation Award Categories

1. Ten (10) Year Awards

Recognition is given to systems that reached 10 years of continuous water fluoridation during the past calendar year.

Criteria: A. Data from CDC (Fluoridation Census)
 B. State records (verification)

Notes:

- 1) Short term suspensions (up to one year) for technical or logistical reasons should not be considered as interruptions of continuous water fluoridation.
- 2) A community/system that started fluoridation 10 years prior to the year of the award, and since then became consecutive would be recognized, but a system that started as a consecutive system would not be.

2. Twenty-five (25) Year Awards

Recognition is given to systems that reached 25 years of continuous water fluoridation during the past calendar year.

Criteria: A. Data from CDC (Fluoridation Census)
 B. State records (verification)

Notes:

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- 1) Short term suspensions (up to one year) for technical or logistical reasons should not be considered as interruptions of continuous water fluoridation.
- 2) A community/system that started fluoridation 25 years prior to the year of the award, and since then became consecutive would be recognized, but a system that started as a consecutive system would not be.

3. Fifty (50) Year Awards

Recognition is given to systems that reached 50 years of continuous water fluoridation during the past calendar year.

- Criteria:
- A. Data from CDC Fluoridation Census
 - B. State records (verification)

Notes:

- 1) Short term suspensions (up to one year) for technical or logistical reasons should not be considered as interruptions of continuous water fluoridation.
- 2) A community/system that started fluoridation 50 years prior to the year of the award, and since then became consecutive would be recognized, but a system that started as a consecutive system would not be.

2. Seventy-five (75) Year Awards

Recognition is given to systems that reached 75 years of continuous water fluoridation during the past calendar year.

- Criteria:
- A. Data from CDC Fluoridation Census
 - B. State records (verification)

Notes:

- 1) Short term suspensions (up to one year) for technical or logistical reasons should not be considered as interruptions of continuous water fluoridation.
- 2) A community/system that started fluoridation 75 years prior to the year of the award, and then ultimately became consecutive would be recognized, but a system that started as a consecutive system would not be.

3. Healthy People 2030 Awards

Recognition is given to states that achieve the Healthy People 2030 objective **for the first time** during the year prior to the year of the award.

[Healthy People 2030 objective:](#)

Increase the proportion of people whose water systems have the recommended amount of fluoride (OH-11): **77.1%** of the population of state on community water supplies receive the benefits of optimally fluoridated water

- Criteria:
- A. Obtained from state dental directors and CDC Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS)
 - B. Data from CDC Fluoridation Census
 - C. State records (verification)

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4. **State Fluoridation Quality Awards**

Recognition is given to states that maintain the quality of fluoridation as determined by the ability of fluoridating systems to monitor and maintain recommended fluoride levels.

- Criteria:
- A. Participate in CDC's WFRS
 1. Consistently maintain the recommended level of fluoridated water in over 90% of the adjusted water systems and/or in over 90% of the population supplied by adjusted water systems.
 2. Data from CDC

"Consistently maintain the recommended level of fluoridated water" is defined as maintaining monthly average fluoride levels within the range recommended in the Engineering and Administrative Recommendations for Water Fluoridation (1995) for at least 9 months of the calendar year.

5. **Community Fluoridation Initiation Awards**

Recognition is given to communities that initiated optimal water fluoridation during the past calendar year. (*NOTE: this has traditionally been for the initial initiation – that is, a one-time recognition.*)

Note: A fluoridation initiative may be passed through a public referendum, city or town council or village board action, or through other appropriate measures.

- Criteria:
- A. Data obtained from WFRS, state dental directors, and ADA/CAAP, and mutually confirmed.
 - B. A community is not eligible for this award if the initiation of fluoridation results from a mandate. However, for example, if a community agrees to accept a grant for fluoridation equipment, this *could* be considered a de facto vote for CWF. If/when this situation occurs, the initiation of fluoridation could be recognized. Consideration may be given on a case-by-case basis.
 - C. Short term suspensions (up to one year) for technical or logistical reasons should not be considered as terminating water fluoridation, so restarting fluoridation would not make a community eligible for this award. Consideration may be given on a case-by-case basis.

6. **Community Fluoridation Reaffirmation Awards**

Recognition is given to communities that defeated initiatives to discontinue community water fluoridation during the past calendar year, **or approved** an initiative to maintain community water fluoridation if/when challenged.

Note: A challenge to water fluoridation **defeated** through public referendum, city or town council or village board action, or through other appropriate measures.

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- A. A community is not generally eligible for this award if there is no formal action taken by the municipality or through a vote. However, consideration may be given on a case-by-case basis.
- B. Data obtained from ADA/CAAP, state dental directors, and CDC, and mutually confirmed.

7. State Fluoridation Initiative Awards

Recognition is given to the state that had the most “new” systems fluoridating and/or to the state that had the greatest increase in population on fluoridation in the past calendar year.

- Criteria:
- A. State(s) with the greatest increase in systems fluoridating will be recognized OR State (s) with the greatest increase in population on fluoridation will be recognized.
 - 1. Data from CDC/WFRS and state dental directors, and mutually confirmed.
 - 2. If, in the judgment of the Fluorides Committee, the increase in the number of systems fluoridating or the increase in the population fluoridating is minimal, this category of awards may not be presented in any given year.

8. Fluoridation Merit Award

Recognition is given for an outstanding contribution toward the progress of fluoridation.

- Criteria:
- A. The merit award may be presented to an individual, group, agency or organization for an outstanding contribution or a combination of these. More than one award may be presented in this category.
 - 1. Nomination to be made by a member of the Fluorides Committee.
 - 2. Award(s) is presented only if there is a consensus of the Fluorides Committee and may not be presented in any given year.
 - 3. Examples of merit award recognition include but are not limited to:
 - Heading the process to get a new mandatory fluoridation law passed
 - Heading the campaign for a major city
 - New approach to fluoridation initiative
 - Outstanding research in area of fluoridation
 - Outstanding promotion of fluoridation at a national level
 - Capturing significant external resources to support fluoridation activities

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Letter of Recognition

An ASTDD member, associate member or Committee can recommend a Letter of Recognition for an individual or organization they believe deserving of such.

- To do so, the person or committee asking for the letter of recognition should send a letter to ASTDD's Executive Director (cwood@astdd.org) to *completely* describe why they believe a letter of recognition is deserved. (Please limit this letter to one page.)
- The letter should include the name of the organization or individual the writer believes deserves recognition, as well as complete contact information for the organization or individual.
- The Executive Director will forward the recommendation to the ASTDD Board of Directors. If the Board votes to approve the letter of recognition, the Executive Director will compose a letter and send it.