

## AWARD CEREMONY - OCT. 18, 2024

### NOMINATION PROCESS

May – July

### SELECTION PROCESS

September

### WHY NOMINATE AN EMPLOYER OR INDIVIDUAL?

- Shine a spotlight on organizations and individuals making a difference.
- Showcase achievements and share best practices.
- Acknowledge employers successfully creating inclusive work places.
- Acknowledge teams for their hard work and creativity.

## 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Governor's Trophy:** Marci Carpenter

**Direct Support Professional:** Anja Post

**Small Private Employer:** Juanita KinderCare

**Medium Private Employer:** Thompson Seattle

**Large Private Employer:** Thrive Communities

**Small Nonprofit Employer:** Center for Independence

**Medium Nonprofit Employer:** New Leaf, Inc.

**Youth Employer:** Chuck E. Cheese Burlington

**Medium Public (State) Employer:** WA State Dept. of Financial Institutions

**Large Public (City) Employer:** City of Kent

**Large Public (State) Employer:** WA State Health Care Authority

**Large Public (Federal) Employer:** Washington River Protection Solutions



### CONTACT THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES & EMPLOYMENT

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### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AWARDS PROGRAM

Visit [esd.wa.gov/gcde/projects/awards](https://esd.wa.gov/gcde/projects/awards)



## THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES & EMPLOYMENT (GCDE) GOVERNOR'S EMPLOYER AWARDS

Presented to outstanding employers and individuals who recruit, hire, and promote employees with disabilities.



# GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES & EMPLOYMENT (GCDE)

GCDE is 25 volunteer members appointed by the governor. The majority are individuals with a wide range of physical, mental or sensory disabilities.

Representatives from various state agencies and disability organizations serve as associate members. The Committee is supported by a staff of four state employees.

## WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE DO?

GCDE's mission is to provide state level advocacy and leadership with the disability community to obtain equity in economic opportunity and community inclusion.

The Committee is recognized for expertise in the broad spectrum of issues affecting people with disabilities.

## WHAT ARE THE GOVERNOR'S EMPLOYER AWARDS?

The Awards recognize best practices that positively shape employment opportunities for workers with disabilities. We celebrate employer achievements for recruiting, hiring and advancing workers with disabilities.

## AWARDS NOMINATION PROCESS

An individual, business, agency or organization may submit nominations for themselves or others. For more information or to request a nomination form in alternate formats, visit [esd.wa.gov/gcde/projects/awards](https://esd.wa.gov/gcde/projects/awards) or contact staff at 360-890-3778.

## SELECTION PROCESS

Each year, a distinguished panel of Committee members, previous award winners and business representatives select the award recipients.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Employers wishing to inquire about sponsoring the 2024 awards event, please email us at [GCDE@esd.wa.gov](mailto:GCDE@esd.wa.gov).

# AWARD CATEGORIES

**Toby Olson Lifetime Impact Award** honors an individual who has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to increasing the equality of opportunity and independence for individuals with disabilities.

**Private and Nonprofit Employers** are recognized for their efforts to recruit, hire and advance individuals with disabilities.

**Small** (99 or fewer employees)  
**Medium** (100 to 499 employees)  
**Large** (over 500 employees)

**Public Employers** are governmental entities (city, county, state, federal or municipal) recognized for their efforts to recruit, hire and advance individuals with disabilities.

**The Governor's Trophy in Memory of Carolyn Blair Brown** honors an individual with a disability who has developed or influenced programs, services, legislation, etc. that dramatically enhance the empowerment of individuals with disabilities.

**Direct Support Professional** is a career achievement award recognizing exceptional professionals who work directly with individuals with intellectual, developmental and psychological disabilities to ensure full inclusion in their community with supported employment.

**The Youth Employer** honors a private, nonprofit or public employer for their efforts to sponsor programs and activities promoting employment preparation and job skill training for youth with disabilities to ensure full inclusion in their community with supported employment.