2016 Justice Center Code of Conduct Recognition Award
Call for Nominations
Presented by the NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs

The NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (Justice Center) is seeking nominations for the 2016 Justice Center Code of Conduct Recognition Award to recognize the dedicated women and men who provide direct support to people with special needs throughout New York State. The Justice Center’s Code of Conduct for Custodians of People with Special Needs provides a framework for assisting people with special needs “live self-directed, meaningful lives in their communities, free from abuse and neglect, and protected from harm.” This award will recognize those who demonstrate a strong commitment to the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

Who can be nominated?
All custodians who sign the Code of Conduct are eligible. A custodian is an individual who is employed by, or volunteers at, state operated, licensed or certified facilities or agencies under the Justice Center’s jurisdiction. Consultants, volunteers or contractors of organizations or companies that contract with facilities and agencies, under the Justice Center’s jurisdiction, are also considered to be custodians if they have regular and substantial contact with a service recipient.

Who can nominate a custodian?
Anyone can nominate a custodian who they believe should be recognized. Self-nominations are welcome.

How will award winners be selected?
Members of the Justice Center’s Advisory Council will review nominations and select award winners who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the Code of Conduct throughout the year. The criteria used in the award process come directly from the ten (10) provisions outlined in the Code of Conduct. Each nomination must have clear examples of how the nominee exemplifies the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

How many award winners will be selected?
Four winners will be selected from across New York State.

What is the deadline for submitting a nomination?
The deadline for submission is Friday, July 22, 2016.

How will award winners be recognized?
The winners will be selected in September, 2016. Award winners are invited to a recognition lunch with the Justice Center Advisory Council on September 29 in Delmar, NY. After the recognition lunch, award winners will have an opportunity to meet with New York State policy makers at the Capitol.

Where can I find the nomination form?
Please click here to submit a nomination form for the 2016 Justice Center Code of Conduct Recognition Award.

What are the Justice Center’s Code of Conduct provisions?
1. Person-Centered Approach
My primary duty is to the people who receive supports and services from this organization. I acknowledge that each person of suitable age must have the opportunity to direct his or her own life, honoring, where consistent
with agency policy, their right to assume risk in a safe manner, and recognizing each person’s potential for lifelong learning and growth. I understand that my job will require flexibility, creativity and commitment. Whenever consistent with agency policy, I will work to support the individual’s preferences and interests.

2. Physical, Emotional and Personal Well-being
I will promote the physical, emotional and personal well-being of any person who receives services and supports from this organization, including their protection from abuse and neglect and reducing their risk of harm to others and themselves.

3. Respect, Dignity and Choice
I will respect the dignity and individuality of any person who receives services and supports from this organization and honor their choices and preferences whenever possible and consistent with agency policy. I will help people receiving supports and services use the opportunities and resources available to all in the community, whenever possible and consistent with agency policy.

4. Self-Determination
I will help people receiving supports and services realize their rights and responsibilities, and, as consistent with agency policy, make informed decisions and understand their options related to their physical health and emotional well-being.

5. Relationships
I will help people who receive services and supports from this organization maintain or develop healthy relationships with family and friends. I will support them in making informed choices about safely expressing their sexuality and other preferences, whenever possible and consistent with agency policy.

6. Advocacy
I will advocate for justice, inclusion and community participation with, or on behalf of, any person who receives services and supports from this organization, as consistent with agency policy. I will promote justice, fairness and equality, and respect their human, civil and legal rights.

7. Personal Health Information and Confidentiality
I understand that persons served by my organization have the right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to their personal health information and I will protect this information from unauthorized use or disclosure, except as required or permitted by law.

8. Non-Discrimination
I will not discriminate against people receiving services and supports or colleagues based on race, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, economic condition or disability.

9. Integrity, Responsibility and Professional Competency
I will reinforce the values of this organization when it does not compromise the well-being of any person who receives services and supports. I will maintain my skills and competency through continued learning, including all training provided by this organization. I will actively seek advice and guidance of others whenever I am uncertain about an appropriate course of action. I will not misrepresent my professional qualifications or affiliations. I will demonstrate model behavior to all, including persons receiving services and supports.

10. Reporting Requirements
As a mandated reporter, I acknowledge my legal obligation under Social Services Law § 491, as may be amended from time to time or superseded, to report all allegations of reportable incidents immediately upon discovery to the Justice Center’s Vulnerable Persons’ Central Register by calling 1-855-373-2122.

Questions about the award or completion of the application should be directed to the Office of Outreach and Education at prevention@justicecenter.ny.gov.