



[www.lincolnaward.org](http://www.lincolnaward.org)

### How to put your organization on the path to performance excellence

The Foundation is structured to help your organization in 2 basic ways: provide training/assessment services and provide an award recognition structure.

The Lincoln Foundation offers a practical stair-step approach to performance excellence through 3 levels of progressively challenging awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

#### *The Gold Award for Achievement of Excellence*

The highest level award for organizations which have demonstrated exemplary approach, deployment, and achievement of outstanding results in their overall quality systems and continuous improvement process.

#### *The Silver Award for Progress Towards Excellence*

For organizations which have demonstrated significant progress in instituting sound and notable continuous improvement processes.

#### *The Bronze Award for Commitment to Excellence*

The starting level for organizations which have demonstrated an earnest effort to adopt and apply continuous improvement principles.

There is no limit on the number of awards offered per year. Winning a Lincoln Award is great for attracting new business and bringing recognition to your organization.

### What a National Baldrige Recipient says:

*“The major difference is, we know where we have opportunities to improve, and we know whether we are successful in our efforts to improve. Earlier, the loudest voices could get their way, but that isn’t statistical or scientific.”*

CEO Rulon Stacey, Poudre Valley Health System, 2008 National Baldrige Recipient

### What a Lincoln Examiner says:

*“...a wealth of knowledge, cutting edge ideas, and valuable experience.”*

*“...excellence networking opportunities, high quality training sessions.”*

### What a Lincoln Award Recipient says:

Michael Bryant, President and CEO, Methodist Medical Center, Peoria,  
*“We have benefited greatly and more importantly have learned from The Lincoln Foundation experience over the last 2 years. I am proud our organization listened very carefully to the Lincoln feedback team and have implemented changes to make us better. Without question, Methodist is a lot better organization today as a result of the experience with The Lincoln Foundation.”*

Henry A. Gmitro, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Community Consolidated School District 93,  
*“The Lincoln award feedback provided us with highly valuable information for our strategic planning process and in our continuous improvement efforts.”*



The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence

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DO YOU WANT  
 to be *the Best?*

WE CAN GET YOU THERE



*“Helping Illinois Organizations Excel”*

*“I see the Baldrige process as a powerful set of mechanisms for disciplined people engaged in disciplined thought and taking disciplined action to create great organizations that produce exceptional results.”*

*Jim Collins, Best-Selling Author of Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't*



Board Chairman Walt Reilly and Lincoln Foundation President and CEO Paul Kuchuris with Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.

*“The Lincoln Foundation strives to help organizations continually improve their performance.*

*The organizations are exceptional examples of how excellence can be both achieved and maintained.”*

*Illinois Governor Pat Quinn*

## Who we are

Whether your organization is large or small, in business, education, health care, or nonprofit, in one location or many, your organization can benefit from the services of The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence.

Founded, in 1994, The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization backed by both private and public funding whose objective is to promote Illinois' competitive edge through the deployment of the Lincoln/Baldrige criteria. The Foundation is committed to helping all organizations pursue excellence through a non-prescriptive framework. Over 200 organizations have benefited through our application and feedback process. A 20-member Board of Trustees, including representatives from Baxter, Benedictine University, BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois, Tellabs, Caterpillar, and Molex to name a few, supports and governs The Foundation's activities.

## What we do

In today's environment, your organization can survive and even improve in this competitive marketplace. If you want to excel, if you want to grow and prosper, we can help your organization reach its goals. Our step-by-step application and feedback process offers one of the most cost-effective and comprehensive business reviews available. Here's how:

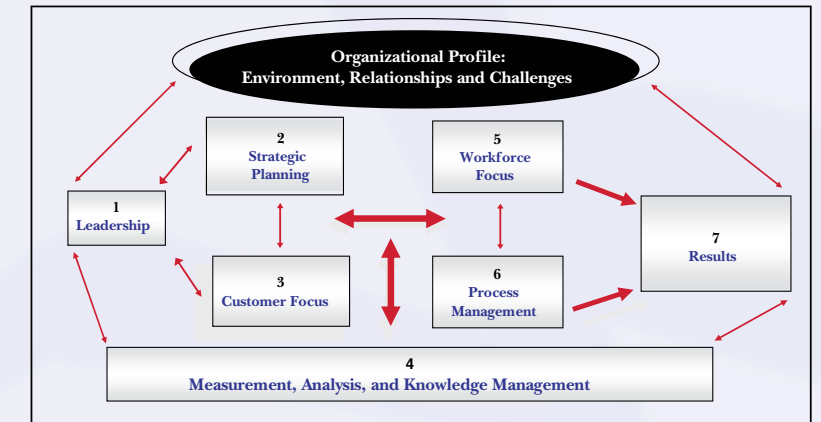
- Interested organizations submit a 50 page self-assessment application based on the 7 categories of the Lincoln/Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence.
- Teams of professional examiners evaluate the application and may conduct a site visit to gain an in-depth understanding of your organization.
- Based on their findings, the teams prepare detailed feedback reports that contains an applicants strengths and applicant specific listing of opportunities for improvement. Teams consist of an exceptional volunteer base of individuals, all leaders in the field of performance excellence.
- A panel of objective, professional judges then make the final decision on award selections.
- All applicants receive an approximately 50 page feedback report on their strengths and opportunities for improvement. The report helps you focus on your organization.

This process is applicable for all sizes and types of organizations and can help your organization: jump start change initiatives, energize improvement initiatives, benchmark performance against your competition, and align resources with strategic objectives. Why wait? Applicants report that the greatest value comes from writing an application and receiving a customized feedback report.



*... “Internal assessments play a valuable role. However, at some point in the journey, you need the outside perspective that only an application can secure.”....*

Studies by the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) have found that investing quality principles and performance excellence pays off in increased productivity, satisfied employees and customers, and improved profitability-both for customers and investors.



## Training & Development

The Lincoln Foundation is committed to providing all types of organizations, including health care, business, non profit, and education, with resources and services to assist them in improving their management systems. Training and assessment services are available both through open sessions and customized on site at very competitive rates. Webinars are offered monthly on each criteria topic. Visit The Foundation website to review a complete list of offerings @ [www.lincolnaward.org](http://www.lincolnaward.org).

## What are you waiting for?

Take the first step. Set your goals. Let The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence help you succeed. Here are some ways to get started:

- Familiarize your leadership team with the Lincoln/Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence. You can review and/or obtain a copy at: [www.baldrige.nist.gov](http://www.baldrige.nist.gov).
- Complete the Are We Making Progress? Questionnaire.
- Write an organizational profile, a good step before undertaking a full self-assessment.
- Conduct a Baldrige Express on-line survey. This 50 question survey is cost effective, engages employees, and accelerates your ability to improve. The survey measures performance on a wide range of key performance indicators and helps to evaluate key process, systems, and results.
- Send staff to become Lincoln examiners.
- Jump-start your application by attending our one-day application workshop.
- Most importantly – contact us! We can help you decide where to begin.