



25 YEARS

20
22 | EMPLOYER
RECOGNITION
AWARDS

HONORING EMPLOYERS
WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE!

Awards are given in the following categories:

INCENTIVES

Offering a host of commuter incentives to encourage and reward employees for using alternative means of transportation to and from work.

MARKETING

Educating about and championing for the use of alternative transportation options by frequently promoting available commuter programs to employees in creative and effective ways.

TELEWORK

Providing a policy framework and technology to allow employees to seamlessly work from home, or at a local telework or co-working center, one or more days per week.

25

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22** | **EMPLOYER
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AWARDS**

Has your organization made a difference in any of the following areas? If so, apply now.



AIR ALERTS

Receiving free e-mail Alerts from Clean Air Partners about forecasted unhealthy Code Orange/Red days to encourage employees to improve air quality by teleworking, bicycling, walking, ridesharing, or taking transit.

BICYCLING AND WALKING

Providing bike racks, Fixit stations, lockers, and/or shower facilities for bicyclists and walkers. Offering a direct monthly bicycle benefit for purchases, improvement, repair, or storage.

CLEAN ENERGY VEHICLES

Providing electric car charging stations, or a company fleet of clean energy vehicles or hybrids.

DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIPS

Offering discount memberships to nearby gyms, bikesharing, and/or carsharing services.

GUARANTEED RIDE HOME

Promoting and/or supplementing Commuter Connections' free emergency ride home program for employees during unexpected personal or family emergencies/illnesses, or unscheduled overtime.

PARKING STRATEGIES

Offering reduced parking fees and/or preferred parking spaces for carpools and vanpools.

RIDESHARING

Promoting Commuter Connections' free Ridematching services for carpools and vanpools, or providing your own on-site employee ridematching service.

TELEWORKING

Providing management support, training, and technology to enable employees to work from home, a remote office, or co-working space, either on a part-time, full-time, or occasional basis.

TRANSIT AND VANPOOLS

Offering monthly transit and vanpool pre-tax or direct benefits, through SmartBenefits®. Providing shuttle services to and from the workplace and transit stations.

WORK SCHEDULE ALTERNATIVES

Offering flexible or staggered start and end times, or compressed work week schedules, such as 4 days/40 hours, or 9 days/80 hours.

A bit about last year's winners:

MARKETING

GEICO Chevy Chase, MD

GEICO is one of the fastest-growing auto insurers, holding more than 18 million policies nationwide and covering over 28 million autos. GEICO employs more than 3,100 in the region and matches employee contributions to Metro's SmartBenefits, up to \$110 per month. The company is a short walk from the Metrorail station and encourages commuting by bicycle. GEICO has provided bike education classes to its employees; and has installed numerous bike racks, lockers, and showers.

GEICO promotes its commuter benefits program to employees through new hire orientations, bi-annual benefits fairs, intranet, emails, and brochures within the cafeteria and break rooms. GEICO also partners with Montgomery County Commuter Services to promote participation in annual events such as the Walk and Ride Challenge and Bike to Work Day. Through marketing of its commuter programs to employees, GEICO has helped reduce employee vehicle miles by 1,384,000 and save 62,910 gallons of gasoline annually.



INCENTIVES

NIAID Rockville, MD

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is part of the National Institutes of Health and advances infectious disease research to improve public health. NIAID offers a variety of commuter incentives, including carpool and vanpool parking, electric vehicle charging stations, secure bike parking, a bike trail, and showers and lockers. It offers employee health and wellness classes, fitness areas, and other on-site amenities that encourage employees to stay on campus throughout the workday.

Of its 4,500 employees in the region, 40 percent telework up to eight days a month, supported by NIAID's flexible scheduling. NIAID is within walking distance to a Metrorail station and 37 percent of employees receive a transportation subsidy up to the federal limit. As a result of its various commuter benefits and amenities, NIAID has saved an average of 11,700,000 employee vehicle miles and an estimated 534,000 gallons of gasoline annually.



TELEWORK

ASHA Rockville, MD

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is a national organization with 218,000 members and affiliates made up of pathologists, audiologists, scientists, and students. Since 2004, ASHA has grown its telework program from one of every six employees to one of every two employees teleworking up to 66 percent of their total workdays.

In response to the pandemic, ASHA pivoted to an entirely remote workforce and provided laptops, monitors, and desk chairs; plus employees were given \$500 to purchase home-office supplies. ASHA's "Wellbeing Navigator" provided ergonomic sessions so employees could maintain comfort within a home/office setting. The organization has also maintained a flextime program that allows staff to manage their individual work schedule arrangements. ASHA's telework and work schedule alternatives programs have helped reduce employee vehicle miles by 700,650 and save 31,848 gallons of gasoline annually.



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

About the organizations

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an association of 24 local governments in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. COG's National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board is a forum for addressing and coordinating regional transportation programs.

Please visit mwcog.org for more info.

Commuter Connections

A program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, Commuter Connections is a regionwide transportation information, outreach, and service network dedicated to easing the workday commute and reducing the number of single-occupant vehicles. Free information, incentive programs, and assistance on services including ridesharing, public transit, teleworking, bicycling, park & ride lots, HOV lanes, and Guaranteed Ride Home is available for both employers and commuters.

Commuter Connections is funded by the District, Maryland, Virginia, and U.S. Departments of Transportation, with state and federal transportation funds.

Please visit commuterconnections.org or call 800.745.7433 for more info.



Easing the way for what's to follow

Ridesharing, commuting by public transportation, bicycling, walking, or teleworking contribute to less traveled roads. That often means smoother, easier, and faster commutes, and a reduction in harmful vehicle emissions.

Opening new doors... and getting in

Commuter Connections encourages area businesses and commuters to discover innovative ways to reduce the number of single-occupant vehicles on the road.

The Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards acknowledges employers who initiate or improve programs encouraging commuting alternatives. Companies who implement these programs and services make a difference to their organization, employees, local community, and the region.



COMMUTER CONNECTIONS | A SMARTER WAY TO WORK



Please apply with this form or **apply online** at commuterconnections.org/employer-recognition-awards

Eligibility

Employers in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia that have initiated, enhanced, or expanded an employee alternative commute or telework program may apply for these awards. To be eligible, programs must have been initiated or improved before January 1, 2021, as a year or more of a program in place provides a better opportunity to demonstrate successful, sustainable, and quantifiable impacts.

Deadline

The application deadline is January 31, 2022.
Completed applications should be sent to:

Commuter Connections
Douglas Franklin
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4290
Tel: 202.962.3792
webmaster@commuterconnections.org
commuterconnections.org

Instructions

Nominations can be submitted online or by using this form, and should include all information requested in items 1-5, plus the program summary narrative as described in question #6. Supplemental materials may be submitted in addition to, but not in place of the nomination form questions and program summary narrative.

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Program Contact _____ Title _____
Phone _____
Email _____ Website _____
Date Program Began (must have been initiated or improved before January 1, 2021) _____
Name of Program (if applicable) _____
Name, email, and phone of Person Submitting Nomination Form (if different from above) _____

2. AWARD CATEGORY

Which Award Category below best describes the focus of your program? (See brochure or website for description of categories.)

- Marketing Incentives Telework

Is there a secondary category you would like to apply for? (Note: You can only win in one category.)

- Marketing Incentives Telework

3. TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

Please mark one of the choices below that best describes your organization.

- Private sector Local, State or Federal government
 Non-profit organization Other _____
Please specify

4. NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

How many people do you employ in the Washington metropolitan area? _____
At how many work sites? _____
What is the total number of program participants in the Washington metropolitan area? _____

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that I am authorized to submit this nomination form on behalf of my organization and that, if selected as a winner, my organization will participate in the awards ceremony and video, and that Commuter Connections will promote my organization's initiatives online and in print.

Signed _____ Title _____

6. PROGRAM SUMMARY NARRATIVE

Please attach a 1-3 page written summary about your program, answering and elaborating on as many questions below that apply. Address each part (A, B, C, D) in a separate paragraph and provide measurable results of the program, wherever possible.

Provide a clear, concise description of your program's activities. If you are a previous Commuter Connections award winner, please make clear what new initiatives have taken place and/or what has been done differently to encourage substantial increases in employee participation since last winning.

Questions and points to address in narrative if applicable:

A. Description of Program

- What was the situation or condition that led to the creation of your program?
- What were the program's goals and how has it been successful in meeting its goals?
- What have the results been compared to previous years?
- What type of commuter benefits, services, information, or amenities are offered to employees and how many take advantage of each?
- How are the various programs promoted within your worksite?
- If parking is provided, is it free or employee paid? If employee paid, are carpools given discounts or preferential parking spaces?
- Is transit fare offered to employees on a pre-tax basis?
- Is transit fare subsidized as an out-of-pocket expense by your organization, paid by employees, or a combination of both?
- If transit fare is subsidized, what is the dollar amount provided to employees?
- Do you provide shuttle services between your worksite and nearby transit centers?
- Do you have bike racks, lockers, Fixit stations, and/or shower facilities?
- Do you offer bikesharing discounts?
- Are flextime or compressed work weeks offered?
- How many employees telework and how often do they do so?
- What type of training and/or amenities are offered to management and to employees who telework?
- Is your telework program informal or do you have a formal telework policy?

B. Employer and Employee Benefits

Describe how the program has:

- Improved employee morale, productivity, absenteeism.
- Increased your organization's ability to attract and retain qualified employees.
- Helped reduce employee commuting times and stress.
- Contributed to better employee work-life demands/balance.

C. Economic and Financial Benefits

Describe how the program has:

- Helped reduce employee commuting expenses.
- Reduced your organization's costs associated with providing commuter parking and/or office space.
- Provided other dividends for your organization or employees.

D. Environmental Impacts

Describe and quantify the benefits to the community. Describe how the program has:

- Reduced traffic congestion. How many vehicles have been taken off the roads? How many annual vehicle miles have been reduced? To calculate vehicle miles reduced, please visit commuterconnections.org/commuting-resources/vmt-calculator.
- Reduced gasoline consumption and emissions. What is the number of estimated gallons of gas saved annually?
- Affected your awareness or support of air quality. Does your organization provide air quality alerts to employees and allow teleworking on such days?