

PANO's Seal of Excellence Transferred to NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania Following Transition to State Organization

In January 2014, NAMI Southwestern Pennsylvania was awarded the Seal of Excellence by the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO) for successfully completing the Standards for Excellence accreditation program. The designation followed a rigorous months-long review process conducted by PANO and a team of independent peer reviewers which included an evaluation of the organization's operations, work, and accomplishments. It was determined that NAMI demonstrated successful compliance in meeting the high standards set forth in PANO's *Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector*.

"The Seal of Excellence is granted to well-managed, responsibly-governed organizations that are deserving of the public's trust," said Patricia Mogan, Standards for Excellence Officer for PANO.

In 2017, when NAMI Southwestern Pennsylvania transitioned into becoming the state organization under the name NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania, the Seal of Excellence transferred to the new organization.

"Achieving the Seal of Excellence as an affiliate showed we were a worthy partner at the regional level," said Christine Michaels, Chief Executive Officer of NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania. "Now that it carried over to our new state organization, we hope it will open more doors to relationship building and collaboration at the state level."

- ✔ **NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania is one of 45 accredited nonprofit organizations in Pennsylvania.**
- ✔ **Out of 1.5 million nonprofits registered in the United States, approximately 200 have earned the Seal of Excellence.**

PANO Standards for Excellence

Only organizations which demonstrate their compliance with the *Standards for Excellence* are given permission to use the Seal of Excellence.

- **The Seal of Excellence is a symbol of trust.** Organizations that display the Seal go beyond simply obeying the law and government regulation – they demonstrate their willingness to earn the public's trust.
- **The Seal of Excellence is a symbol of excellence in nonprofit management.** Organizations that display the Seal are guided by a well-defined mission, have evaluation systems in place to measure the effectiveness of their programs, and adhere to sound financial management policies.
- **The Seal of Excellence is a symbol of excellence in leadership.** Organizations that display the Seal are led by a volunteer Board of Directors that accepts responsibility to oversee the organization's mission, policies, programs, and human and financial resources.
- **The Seal of Excellence is a symbol of openness and disclosure in nonprofits.** Organizations that display the Seal have information available to the public, provide truthful responsible stewardship of all donations, and provide a voice for their constituents.

