

## START THE JOURNEY

The Ohio Partnership for Excellence (OPE) is the state program administering the Ohio Award for Excellence, using the Criteria for Performance Excellence of the Baldrige National Quality Program. Specific criteria are available for business, education, government, health care and non-profit organizations.

With OPE, you can begin using the criteria at any one of three levels! The entrance level will be assessed by OPE, in collaboration with your organization. The decision is primarily based on knowledge of the Baldrige criteria, whether an Organizational Profile has been written, whether an employee survey has been conducted, and other factors. The intent of OPE is to “meet you” wherever you are in your journey, and help you progress as effectively and efficiently as possible. OPE assists organizations to understand the Baldrige Criteria and assist leadership teams to begin their Journey to Performance Excellence and make a long-term commitment to continuous improvement.

The entry levels are 1) Advising; 2) Partnering; and 3) Examining. The Examining level is the traditional full application assessment and site visit by a team of examiners, which is the path to the Governor’s Award for Excellence (Platinum Award).

To get started for the Advising and/or Partnering levels, an organization completes the Intent to Apply Form and pays the application fee. One or two trained OPE volunteers will be assigned to assist organizations at the Advising and Partnering Levels. These volunteers have served on the OPE Board of Examiners and reviewed full applications in Ohio and many are Baldrige National Examiners.

The Advising Level is outlined below:

Session One (full day)

- Advising level PowerPoint presentation information
- Easy-Insight Baldrige self-assessment
- Organizational profile input template

Independent work to draft 5-page Organizational Profile

Session Two (2 hours)

- Verbal and written feedback from the advisors
- Identification of key factors
- Implications of key factors

Successful completion of the Advising Level results in the “Spirit” recognition at OPE’s Annual Conference.

The Partnering Level is outlined below:

An organization independently completes the Organizational Profile (5 pages) and submits a copy to OPE (or has been through the Advising level previously, and has a Profile prepared)  
OPE assigns one or two Partners for two on-site sessions.

#### Session One (full day)

- Advising level PowerPoint presentation information
- Overall systems and associated results input template
- Examples from appropriate / similar Baldrige recipients

#### Independent work

- Organization will write a 25-page (maximum) application addressing the “overall” level of the criteria
- Includes associated results
- Includes 5-page organizational profile

#### Session Two (2 hours)

- Verbal and abbreviated feedback report
- Separate ALDI scoring range for each item
- Results considerations

Successful completion of the Partnering Level results in the “Pioneer” recognition at OPE’s Annual Conference.

After an organization completes the Partnering level, then the organization is well prepared to complete the Full Application process.

Questions? Contact us by phone: 614-441-8337 or email: [info@partnershipohio.org](mailto:info@partnershipohio.org)