

MAY 4-5, 2026

2026 OHIO START ANNUAL SUMMIT

AWARD NOMINATIONS

This event brings together more than 200 caseworkers, supervisors, behavioral health providers, and family peer mentors for 2 days of networking and learning how best to serve Ohio's families affected by co-occurring child maltreatment and substance use disorder. The Ohio START Summit offers inspiring keynotes, panel discussions, breakout sessions, awards luncheons, and an evening reception.

During the Summit, Ohio START presents awards to agency staff and partners for their outstanding service to Ohio families, as well as an Ohio START Family of the Year.

When: May 4-5, 2026

Where: The Ohioan Hotel & Event Center,
100 Green Meadows Dr. S, Lewis Center, OH 43035



ABOUT THE AWARDS

The 2026 Ohio START Award winners will be announced during the 2026 Ohio START Summit on May 4-5. Winners and their loved ones will be invited to join us at the awards ceremony to celebrate their achievement. Below is information about who is eligible to be nominated for each award.

Ohio START Caseworker of the Year

Recipient must be a current Ohio START caseworker serving families.

Ohio START Supervisor of the Year

Recipient must be a current Ohio START supervisor with a dyad actively serving families.

Ohio START Community Partner of the Year

This person is an integral part of the local Ohio START team and collaborates with the team to meet the needs of families. This could include a therapist, case manager, treatment supervisor/administrator, court personnel, direct line or steering committee member.



Ohio START Family Peer Mentor of the Year

Recipient must be a current Ohio START family peer mentor serving families.

Ohio START Family of the Year

Ohio START will recognize a family who has succeeded in overcoming challenges and persevered to create a loving, stable home for their family. Nominated families must have had an open Ohio START case within the last 2 years and closed their case at least 6 months prior to date of nomination. Families must be nominated by a member of the START team in their county.



SUBMIT A NOMINATION

Nomination Deadline: February 27, 2026

NOMINATION FORM

WHO CAN SUBMIT A NOMINATION?

- Public children services agencies and their staff
- Ohio START team members
- Partners working directly with Ohio START teams on Ohio START cases



ABOUT OHIO START

Ohio Sobriety Treatment and Reducing Trauma (START) is a children-services-led initiative that has been shown, when implemented with fidelity, to improve outcomes for both parents and children affected by child maltreatment and parental substance use disorders. The model uses a variety of strategies to promote collaboration and systems-level change within and between child welfare agencies, substance use and mental health treatment providers, the judicial system, and other family-serving entities. The overall goal of this model is to stabilize families harmed by parental drug use so that both children and their parents can recover and move forward with abuse-free and addiction-free lives. Learn more at www.ohiostart.org.

Ohio START is administered by Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO).

Nominate an outstanding colleague or family today!

QUESTIONS?

Contact anne@pcsao.org