



## **SunTrust Now Truist CFO of the Year Award**

### **Award Summary:**

While nonprofits are busy providing much needed services to their communities, one critical member of the staff makes certain that they are fiscally sound, sustainable, and in compliance with public regulations: the Chief Financial Officer. With the heightened challenges of 2020, sound financial leadership is more crucial to organizations now than ever. On a nonprofit team, this person might be a CFO, an internal accountant, a bookkeeper, or a fiscal manager. In any case, this award will be given to the staff person who has made a financial difference to his or her agency either in creatively working through a time of financial difficulty or in taking advantage of a financial opportunity.

The CFO of the Year Award will focus on how the financial manager has enabled his or her agency to continue or improve its programs through sound financial management practices. Specifically, the CFO, accountant or bookkeeper has provided excellence in these four areas:

- Being a steward for the agency by preserving its assets, minimizing risk, and making certain the books are correct
- Serving as an operator, running a tight finance operation that is efficient and effective, and adapting the agency's financial model as necessary
- Being a strategist, helping to shape the overall strategy and direction of the agency, including giving a financial perspective on innovation and growth. Serving as a catalyst, instilling a financial approach and mind set throughout the agency to make certain that the nonprofit performs well as a whole

### **Finalists Awards:**

An award of \$5,000 will be presented to the category winner. This amount is to be split equally between the individual and the organization (\$2,500 to CFO and \$2,500 to organization). \$1,000 will be presented to each of the two finalists. This amount is to be split between the individual and the organization (\$500 to CFO and \$500 to organization).

### **Requirements for the CFO of the Year Award:**

- Must be an organization that has been a 501(c)(3) for at least three years, is a member of CNM, and provides significant services to the Middle Tennessee area.
- Local chapters of national organizations may apply provided the chapters are locally managed and have financial information available on a local basis.

### **Previous Winners and Finalists:**

- Winners and finalists of this award are not eligible to reapply for one year. (For example, if the agency was a finalist in 2019, the agency is eligible to re-apply for this award in 2021.)

## Questions:

As the Salute to Excellence Awards were cancelled in 2020, we welcome responses relevant to the unique challenges of 2020 as well as 2019. Providing specific examples will help our panelists get to know your nominee best.

CNM believes in creating an equitable, connected community. We aspire to be a brave, inclusive, collaborative space for nonprofits, their partners, and the communities they serve. If applicable, we encourage responses that reflect how diversity, equity and inclusion may have informed your nominee's approach to fiscal practices.

Thank you for taking the time to share this nomination – we look forward to learning about your exceptional nominee!

1. Identify the nominee for this award by name, title, years with the agency, and short job description. (Limit response to 100 words.)
2. How has this CFO/accountant/bookkeeper made a difference to the financial health of the agency, particularly in the heightened stresses of 2020? How have they enabled the agency to weather the storm of an uncertain year, solving a financial problem or taking advantage of an opportunity? (Limit response to 400 words.)
3. How has this effort made a difference in the effectiveness of the agency's service to the community? (Limit response to 200 words.)