

Certified Healthy Congregation

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

Q: Is this open to any size congregation?

A: Yes, any congregation within Oklahoma may apply.

Q: If I was a Certified Healthy Congregation last year, do I need to reapply?

A: Yes, applicants must re-apply each year for certification.

Q: Is this open to all faiths?

A: Yes, any faith tradition in Oklahoma may apply.

Application Process

Q: When can I apply?

A: The application period runs from August 1st to November 1st.

Q: Where do I apply?

A: Please apply online at [Certified Healthy \(oklahoma.gov\)](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ee8e298e2a6d4614b27f1586c67e11a6)

Q: Can I mail or fax my application?

A: No, all applications must be completed online. We will not accept mailed or faxed applications. Please contact the Certified Healthy Oklahoma Team at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ee8e298e2a6d4614b27f1586c67e11a6> if you need assistance with getting your application submitted.

Q: How will I know if my application was submitted successfully?

A: You will receive a confirmation e-mail if your application is submitted successfully. If you do not receive this e-mail, first check your spam to see if it was sent there; if it is not there, please contact the Certified Healthy Oklahoma Team and verify if it went through successfully. If it did not, you will need to re-submit.

Q: I have multiple congregation sites. Does each one need to apply?

A: We encourage applicants to submit an application for each congregational site.

Q: My congregation is connected to a school or early childhood facility. Should I still apply as a congregation?

A: Yes, we encourage congregations connected to and/or affiliated with a school or early childhood facility to apply separately.

Q: I am having technical issues with the application and/or website. Who can I call?

A: Please contact the Certified Healthy Oklahoma Team.

Q: When will the awardees be announced?

A: Award decisions are made in January.

Q: When is the professional development event?

A: The CHO Virtual Event is held in June. The breakout sessions are held virtually so it is free to attend.

Criteria

Q: How many criteria are there on the congregation application?

A: There are 49 criteria total in eight categories.

Q: Are the criteria different from last year?

A: The criteria was last updated in 2016. Minor adjustments are added for clarification.

Q: Where did these criteria come from?

A: The Certified Healthy Congregation criteria are based on different components of wellness that addresses tobacco use, physical activity, nutrition, behavioral health and safety. These components are consistent with the state of Oklahoma's Health Improvement Plan 2020, which can be viewed at <https://oklahoma.gov/health/about-us/boards-councils/board-of-health/oklahoma-health-improvement-plan-ohip.html>. This plan outlines what our state needs to accomplish in order to improve the health of every Oklahoman. Each criterion within the application is based on best and promising practices.

Q: I need help understanding a criterion. What should I do?

A: First, check out the Resource Guide. If you still need assistance, contact the Certified Healthy Oklahoma Team.

Q: The criteria seem difficult. Who can I talk to about implementing these components?

A: The Certified Healthy Oklahoma Team through the Technical Assistance Management Platform Request webform at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ee8e298e2a6d4614b27f1586c67e11a6>

Scoring

Q: How will my application be scored?

A: We strive to be as transparent as possible with scoring. We use specific percentages for scoring, and applicants are scored based on the percentage of criteria checked overall. There are other specific requirements for each recognition level (basic, merit, or excellence). Please visit [Certified Healthy \(oklahoma.gov\)](https://oklahoma.gov) for more detailed information on scoring.

Q: I did receive certification last year. How can I improve my score this year?

A: We are here to provide technical assistance to your congregation. We want all congregations to eventually reach the excellence level, and we are happy to provide technical assistance. Please call the Certified Healthy Oklahoma Team. Your local county health department is also a great resource for information on criteria implementation.

Contacts

Q: Who do I contact with questions about Certified Healthy Oklahoma in general?

A: Please submit your question to the Certified Healthy Oklahoma Technical Assistance Management Platform Request webform at:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ee8e298e2a6d4614b27f1586c67e11a6>