Louisiana Hospital Association
Malpractice and General Liability Trust Fund
Overview
The Louisiana Hospital Association Malpractice and General Liability Trust Fund Safety Star Award will recognize three facilities who have successfully implemented ideas or processes which have led to the reduction of general or professional liability exposure in the broad categories of technology use, process improvement, or patient safety initiatives. The program objective is to acknowledge members who are committed to quality and safety and who have developed or implemented innovative ideas or processes that have reduced risk related to professional or general liability exposures. Ideas will be showcased and shared across the membership.

Award
Organizations whose innovative ideas are selected will receive the following:

- Recognition at the LHA Summer Conference. Winning projects will be showcased and shared at the LHA Summer Conference.
- Paid conference registration and expenses for the CEO/Administrator to attend the LHA Summer Conference in July 2017.
- $10,000 award to the hospital.
- Paid conference registration and expenses for hospital designee (as determined by the CEO/Administrator) to attend the American Society of Healthcare Risk Management (ASHRM) annual conference in October 2017.

Award Categories
Technology
The technology use category will focus on technological improvements or use of technology that has resulted in reduced errors, performance improvements, clinical improvements, or quality improvements. Examples include electronic medical record interfaces to improve continuity of care, use of electronic clinical decision support systems to improve quality, reduction in medication errors as a result of bar coding, use of equipment to improve the quality of chest compressions during CPR resulting in improved patient outcomes.

Process Improvement
Any systematic change or improvement in processes that has reduced errors or improved performance, quality or efficiencies. Examples include implementing fall reduction strategies for patients or visitors, patient flow systems to facilitate more efficient movement through the Emergency Department, redesigned communication strategies, strategies to reduce re-admissions or surgical site infections.

Patient Safety Initiative
Any initiative that improves the quality of patient care and reduces harm. Examples include, reduction in medication errors due to sound-alike or look-alike drugs through the use of an alert system, implementation of care bundles to reduce central-line blood stream infections or processes to reduce the incidence of hospital-acquired urinary tract infection, implementation of a rapid response team to reduce cardiac arrest, and implementation of a Safe Patient Handling program to reduce patient falls and reduce skin breakdown.

A submission may qualify in more than one category, but can only win an award in one of the three categories. There is no need to identify the category. Hospitals may submit as many applications as they wish, but can only receive one award.
**Technical Components**

This is a self-nomination process. A successful submission will identify the objective and goals of the project and document the related outcomes.

Data from quantifiable measurable outcomes is required in order to deem whether or not an improvement actually resulted from the interventions taken to address the identified problem. All applications should include outcomes data to show sustained improvement in quality or safety over a period of time.

**Timeline**

Announcement, Application Process, Awards

- April 10, 2017 – Rollout
- May 5, 2017 - Submission Deadline
- June 8, 2017 - Announcement of Winners

**Qualification Criteria**

All of the following criteria must be met for a submission to receive consideration:

- Applicant must be a member of the LHATF
- Application submitted by the deadline.
- The project must be a specific risk reduction initiative with the goal of reducing or minimizing risks related to professional or general liability.
- Project or initiative must have been completed on or after January 1, 2016.
- Project or initiative achieved positive measurable outcomes.

**Exclusions**

Awards will not be given for submissions directly related to employee safety improvements.

Projects that have been completed prior January 1, 2016.

Projects that cannot demonstrate positive measurable outcomes over a period of time using internal data.

All applications received by the deadline will be first reviewed by LHA Trust Funds in accordance with the Qualification Criteria. To qualify for the award, applications must meet all of the criteria listed in the Qualification Criteria, including a project completion date on or after January 1, 2016. Applications that do not meet all criteria will be rejected and not scored.

All applications that meet the Qualification Criteria will be de-identified and scored by an independent reviewer using a competitive scoring process and related score sheets that speak to the criteria below:

- Problem (project) identification
- Methodology for problem (project) identification
- Goals/Objectives
- Project Strategy
- Project Design & Implementation
- Outcomes Measurement
- Goal Achievement

**Process**

To be considered for an award, organizations should complete the related application form. In completing the application, special attention should be paid to addressing each component requested. A copy of the fillable PDF application form is located on our website: www.lhatrustfunds.com.