

# CALIFORNIA AWARDS FOR PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE

## EXPLORER RECOGNITION (CATEGORY ONLY)

### OVERVIEW

The Explorer Recognition is for organizations that have the desire to apply for the Eureka Award but want to focus on one or up to three Baldrige categories and associated results at a time. Your organization can choose to apply for Explorer Recognition for the following categories of the [Baldrige Excellence Framework](#): Leadership; Strategy; Customers; Measurement, Analysis, and Knowledge Management; Workforce; Operations.

The Explorer Recognition provides organizations with more of a choice in how to apply and receive valuable feedback from Examiners. Instead of responding to the full Baldrige Criteria (which includes 7 Categories, 17 Items, and almost 300 questions), the Explorer Recognition process allows organizations to select specific Baldrige categories and related results to respond to. It provides the opportunity for organizations to take a less comprehensive approach for those not quite ready to take on the traditional 50-page Baldrige application.

### BENEFITS OF APPLYING

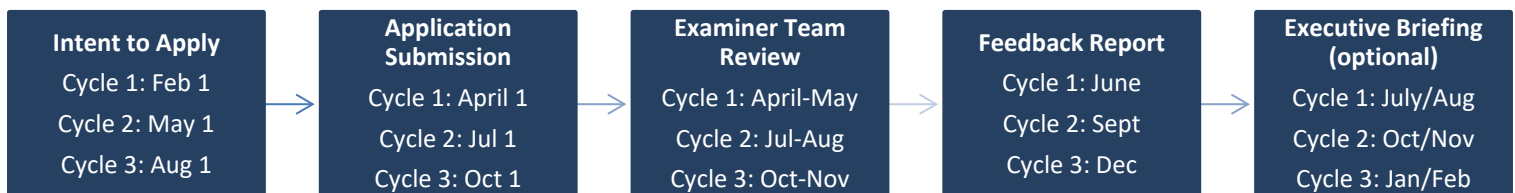
Explorer Recognition applications are reviewed by two experienced CAPE Examiners. Once the Examiners have completed their review, the applicant will receive a Feedback Report identifying the Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement identified in relation to the Category. The Feedback Report is non-prescriptive and is based on the Criteria and responses provided in the application your organization completes. Feedback reports are often used by organizations as part of a strategic planning process as an input in environmental scans, they are also used as a source to drive process improvement within organizations.

Once you have received your Explorer Feedback Report, your organization will have an opportunity to participate in an Executive Briefing (for an additional fee) to engage with the one or both Examiners that reviewed your application. This conversation will allow your organization to candidly discuss the findings in the Feedback Report.

### TIMELINE AND KEY DATES

The application process consists of two parts and applications are accepting during three assessment cycles:

- 1) Submitting an **Intent to Apply Form** and fee.
- 2) Submitting an **Explorer Recognition Application Package** and fee. The package should include the Application Form, a five-page Organizational Profile, and a 10-page Category Criteria response, including the associated results.



## CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE (CCE) AND THE CALIFORNIA AWARDS FOR PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE (CAPE) PROGRAM

CCE is a non-profit organization dedicated to the pursuit of performance excellence within all of California's industries. CCE is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. CCE was founded in 1992 as an emulation of the national Baldrige Performance Excellence Program and is the official Baldrige-based program in California. CCE administers the CAPE program, which honors manufacturing companies, service companies, educational institutions, government agencies, healthcare, non-profit and military organizations for their performance excellence efforts. The CAPE Program offers five levels of Baldrige-based assessments for organizations at any stage of their performance excellence journey. Learn more about CCE and the CAPE program by visiting [www.caexcellence.org](http://www.caexcellence.org).