

AARP ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR BEST EMPLOYERS FOR WORKERS OVER 50(tm)

AARP is accepting applications for its annual program that identifies and honors the nation's employers who create the best working environment and exemplary policies and practices for employees 50 and older.

Now in its sixth year, AARP's award for Best Employers for Workers over 50 is the only one of its kind in the country. The award focuses on employers who are addressing the changing needs of workers as they age in the workplace. Companies must have 50 employees or more to qualify.

Since the awards were first established in 2001, 138 companies have been recognized nationally. Five honorees are from Connecticut: The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. in Hartford was selected in 2002 and 2005, Pitney Bowes, Inc. in Stamford in 2004 and 2005, and Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven in 2005.

The Best Employers program rewards innovative organizations that offer policies and features that appeal to workers 50+, including flexible work options, training/learning opportunities, and age-neutral performance and appraisal systems.

Employers are invited to apply by visiting www.aarp.org/bestemployers. Applicants are asked to describe their practices toward workers aged 50 and older in a comprehensive questionnaire. For the second year, AARP also is bestowing the AARP Bernard E. Nash Award, which recognizes employers with innovative practices in the areas of recruitment, flexible work options or the rehiring of retirees.

A consulting firm will perform the preliminary rating of responses. Then a panel of outside judges - including human resources experts, academics and experts on aging workforce issues - will select the finalists. **Deadline for applications is March 20.**

The AARP Best Employers for Workers over 50 will be announced this fall followed by a dinner honoring the winners.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to making life better for people 50 and over. We provide information and resources; engage in legislative, regulatory and legal advocacy; assist members in serving their communities; and offer a wide range of unique benefits, special products, and services for our members. These include *AARP The Magazine*, published bimonthly; *AARP Bulletin*, our monthly newspaper; *AARP Segunda Juventud*, our Spanish-language newspaper which is published six times a year; *NRTA Live and Learn*, our quarterly newsletter for 50+

educators; and our Web site, www.aarp.org. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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