

# JFK Leadership

Curtis W. Sturm  
Senior Social Insurance  
Specialist

## SSA

Years of Service: 10



## Summary:

In recognition of outstanding contributions as a leader and programmer in the Chicago's Center for Systems and Automation. His initiative and persistence led him to being the first in the agency to implement new security methods, opening the door for other agency developers. His leadership and willingness to share his extensive technical knowledge have been instrumental in producing quality applications and leading other agency developers in applying best practices of cutting-edge technology throughout every application's life cycle.

**Description:** Curtis Sturm is being nominated for the FEOYA because of his outstanding contributions not only to regional development but to development practices throughout the agency. He consistently demonstrates a high level of technical knowledge and leadership. He was promoted to be a team leader and program manager for his extensive job knowledge and proven leadership. This year he has mentored new staff and was instrumental in cross training his team to prepare for upcoming staff losses to minimize negative impact on the team's ability to support their application portfolio of over 60 national applications. The team quickly embraced him as their leader and have been empowered to achieve more with less. He communicates well and has been instrumental in the team's ability to accept change and to comply with best practices. Throughout his career, Curtis Sturm has taken a proactive approach to writing and maintaining applications that are well documented, secure, scalable follow agency approved life cycle procedures, and use the latest approved technology. He regularly refactors his code to keep it up to date and supports ongoing performance management activities including audits. He regularly mentors other staff and is seen as a leader, not only by his team, but by other developers across the nation. For example, in July 2020, two major critical agency applications used by front-line staff were impacted by an issue related to the agency's new laptops. Curt jumped in to provide a detailed solution and contacts to the developers of those applications based on his work on delegation he pioneered for one of his applications having to do with obtaining information from an enterprise web service. He came up with a method to implement web service access in a manner that will work with the new laptop's Credential Guard and shared his work with Systems and the regional developers. This enabled them to fix their applications quickly, minimizing down time for front-line workers. In April 2020, Curt was recognized as a Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Champion. This program is an opportunity for the CTO to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to help advance the Agency and CTO efforts by moving the IT agenda forward, championing Systems initiatives, and inspiring others. Curt plays an active role in technical forums, workgroups, and is a regular contributor to Confluence. He regularly shares valid solutions to technical issues, always taking security and audit into consideration. He encourages others to follow agency guidelines for consistency. He collaborates with other developers in every region to assist them with their applications and methods. He makes recommendations for positive change in the agency, making applications easier to support and using methods that meet audit needs.