



2024 Summit Award Criteria

Each year, APHSA and its partners honor several individuals and entities for their outstanding contributions to the human services sector. This year we are pleased to add three new categories for awards. A review panel selects award recipients of APHSA staff, Board representatives, organization executives, and human service practitioners. Nominations are evaluated based on the criteria outlined in each award description.

Award recipients will be honored at the APHSA National Human Services Summit and recognized on our website and social media platforms.

APHSA Excellence Award for State and Local Members

APHSA is proud to continue its tradition of recognizing outstanding individuals and agencies that have made exceptional contributions to the human services sector through the APHSA Excellence Award for State and Local Members.

The APHSA Excellence Award for State and Local Members recognizes one state-level recipient (either an agency or an individual staff member) and one local-level recipient (either an agency or staff member) for their contributions to moving human services upstream to advancing social and economic mobility and/or for strengthening the human services sector overall. APHSA seeks to honor our members' significant impact on improving the well-being of children and families in our communities.

These awards highlight the exemplary work of state and local agencies that have demonstrated innovation, creativity, and a commitment to advancing better outcomes for children and families through human service delivery.

Past state recipients: Doug Racine, Reggie Bicha, Raquel Hatter, Rod Bremby, Will Lightbourne, Pankaj Bhanot

Past local recipients: Nick Macchionne, Nannette Bowler, Rodney Adams, Paul Fleissner, Kelly Harder, Lynn Johnson, Frank Alexander



APHSA Future of Human Services Award

APHSA and our members are working toward a future state of human services that is human-centered and community driven, that is embedded with a workforce culture of safety, well-being and belonging and that is aligned with other systems to better serve our individuals and families in order to build thriving communities throughout the country.

The newly established APHSA Future of Human Services Award recognizes state or county agencies or other entities/partnerships that have demonstrated bold, visionary leadership in advancing better outcomes for children and families. This award honors entities that have embraced innovation, addressed disparate outcomes, and who have taken strides to establish a human-centered and community-driven culture. This award may be given to a partnership or coalition of agencies/non-profits or others working together to bring meaningful change and improvements to the delivery of human services.

Selection Criteria:

To be eligible for this award, agencies or partnerships must demonstrate leadership in one or more of the following areas:

- Innovation: the entity implemented new and effective strategies for improving service delivery and/or achieving positive outcomes for clients and communities.
- EDIB: the entity has demonstrated a commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging in its policies, practices, and programs.
- Human-centered and community-driven culture: the entity has created a culture that prioritizes the needs and experiences of clients and communities, and that values the input and feedback of stakeholders.
- Embedded with a workforce culture of safety, well-being, and belonging.
- Alignment with other systems: the entity has worked collaboratively with other systems to foster thriving communities and to address complex social issues.

The selection process for this award will focus on identifying agencies that are driving meaningful change and that are leading the way in creating a more equitable and just future for all. Award recipients will be recognized at the upcoming APHSA Summit and will receive a commemorative plaque, recognition on our website and social media platforms, and the opportunity to share their innovative strategies for service delivery with their peers in the human services sector.



Excellence and Impact in Communities Award

The American Public Human Services Association recognizes the important role of community-based organizations (CBOs) in promoting the well-being of individuals and families across the United States. To this end, APHSA seeks nominations for the first APHSA Excellence and Impact in Communities Award.

CBOs form the backbone of day-to-day human services support in our communities, providing vital services and programs, in and with community members, that actively promote well-being and create pathways for long-term success and are particularly effective when working together with members of the community. These organizations build deep relationships in the community and become trusted brokers of information and resources. Funders and initiatives may come and go, but CBOs remain firmly grounded in our communities, connecting people to much-needed services and programs and raising up their voices to improve policies and services.

The Excellence and Impact in Communities Award celebrates CBOs that have improved outcomes for their community members through programs, services, and partnerships. Nominees will be evaluated on their efforts to engage individuals with lived experience in decision-making processes, their commitment to creating belonging for community members, and their impact on reducing disparities and improving economic mobility and well-being in their community.

We encourage individuals to submit nominations for outstanding community-based organizations that are making a positive impact in their communities. CBOs may self-nominate.



Jerry W. Friedman Human Services Impact Award

The Jerry W. Friedman Human Services Impact Award was established by APHSA in 2016 to honor the legacy of Jerry Friedman, former APHSA Executive Director, who was committed to ensuring that all people had the opportunity to live to their full potential. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the human services sector and have demonstrated a commitment to designing integrated systems that prioritize the human aspect of service delivery.

Eligibility Criteria:

The individual must have demonstrated a significant impact on human services programs and be recognized for the evolution of their work to be sustainable.

Selection Criteria:

Recipients of the Jerry W. Friedman Human Services Impact Award will have a demonstrated history of impacting and improving human services programs. They will have shown a similar commitment to Friedman's legacy of advancing the human services sector, made lasting contributions to the local, state, or national human services system, and demonstrated adaptive leadership, system design, product development, and/or technological advancements.

Honorees will have added value to an integrated service delivery system and contributed in sustainable and adaptable ways to changing environments and needs. They will also inspire others to lead boldly in the human services sector.

The Jerry W. Friedman Human Services Impact Award is a prestigious honor that recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the human services sector. Recipients of this award will be celebrated at the APHSA Summit and will receive a commemorative plaque in recognition of their achievements.

Past Friedman Award Recipients: David Hansell, Antonio Oftelie, Anne Mosle, Kelly Harder, Jennifer Walthall

Past lifetime recipients: Brenda Donald, Robert G. Stauffer, David Berns, Howard Hendrick, Karen Beye, Jerry Friedman, Gary Stangler, Dick Nathan, Kevin Concannon, Ruth Massinga, Barbara Blum, Richard Friedman, Susan Dreyfus, Marc Cherna, Robert Doar



Research & Evaluation Innovation Award

The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) is proud to announce the establishment of the APHSA Research & Evaluation Innovation Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the human services sector by an individual or institution conducting evaluations and/or research, such as a non-profit organization, think tank, college, university, or human services agency.

This award honors organizations or partnerships that have significantly contributed to advancing the human services sector through innovative research and evaluation on policy, practice, and process and the dissemination of valuable information to agencies needing this information. Nominees will be evaluated on their demonstrated excellence in generating and disseminating research that informs policy, practice, and human service processes.

Award Criteria:

- Substantial and demonstrable impact on human services.
- Innovative research and/or evaluation, and implementation.
- Significant contribution to evidence and practical knowledge in human services.
- Commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging principles in the research.

Nomination Guidelines:

- Provide a brief overview of the research or evaluation work.
- Detail the innovative aspects and impact of the research or evaluation work.
- Describe how the research or evaluation work has been shared with the human services sector.
- Include the nominee's professional biography and contact details.
- Entities can self-nominate.

Nominees will be evaluated based on their innovative research or evaluation work and information that advances human services, their efforts to disseminate research findings to inform policy, practice, and policy, and their commitment to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in their research and dissemination efforts.