



## 2025 Summit Award Criteria

Each year, APHSA and its partners honor several individuals and entities for their outstanding contributions to the human services sector. 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.

In alignment with APHSA members' vision of **thriving communities, built on human potential**, these awards recognize state and local human services agencies that have demonstrated exemplary innovation, creativity, and a deep and inclusive commitment to advancing positive outcomes for children and families. This recognition celebrates agencies that go beyond traditional service delivery by actively engaging with the diverse communities they serve, understanding their unique strengths and needs, and co-creating solutions that foster well-being, opportunity, and the full development of human potential. Awarded agencies will showcase a commitment to equitable practices, meaningful community partnerships, and creating environments where all individuals and families can contribute to and benefit from a thriving community.

*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*

### **The nominator will be asked to answer the following for the nominee:**

- Why is this individual/organization deserving to be selected for the APHSA Excellence Award? (250 words or less)
- Provide examples of how this individual or entity contributed to significant improvements in well-being in the lives of children and families served by the Human Services sector.
- Provide additional comments (e.g. personal reflections, etc.) which it would be important to consider when reviewing the nominations.

Begin your nomination [here](#).



### **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:**

The Jerry W. Friedman Human Services Impact Award recipients 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 recognizing 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; Gerald Huber*

*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*

#### **The nominator will be asked to answer the following for the nominee:**

- Why is this individual deserving to be selected for the Jerry W. Friedman Human Services Impact Award?
- Provide examples of bold leadership which makes this individual stand above others for this award.
- Provide additional comments (e.g., personal reflections, etc.) which it would be important to consider when reviewing the nominations.

Begin your submission [here](#).



### **APHSA Innovation 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 to build thriving communities throughout the country.

Recognizing bold, visionary leadership, the newly established APHSA Innovation Award honors public or private organizations, state or county agencies, or partnerships that have demonstrated significant and lasting advancements or positive outcomes within the broader human services landscape. This encompasses improvements in systems and services impacting individuals and/or families, as well as advancements in mental health, aging, disability support, or other vital areas of human well-being. This award honors entities that have used new innovations to improve or advance services to people in need, addressed disparate outcomes, and/or 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.
- 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.

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.

### **The nominator will be asked to answer the following for the nominee:**

- Why is this organization deserving to be selected for the APHSA Innovation Award? (250 words or less)
  - Provide examples of how this entity has advanced innovative new strategies or initiatives that have improved outcomes for people served by the human services sector?
  - Provide additional comments (e.g. personal reflections, etc.) which it would be important to consider when reviewing the nominations.
  - Upload additional support information further exemplifying the innovation(s) by the nominee.
- Begin your nomination [here](#).