

Children's Bureau Champion Awards



Nominations Packet

Nominations due by
November 2, 2022



Sponsored by the Children's Bureau
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



THE AWARDS

The Children's Bureau Champion Awards honor those working to improve the overall health and well-being of our nation's children and families. The Children's Bureau (CB) is committed to refocusing our nation's child welfare system on strengthening families' capacity to care for their own children; reducing the numbers of children traumatized by abuse and neglect; ensuring that youth leave care with strengthened relationships, holistic supports, and opportunities; and breaking the inter-generational cycle of trauma and maltreatment. Achieving these goals is only possible through the hard work and commitment of many partners across the country.

The CB will honor agencies, community-based organizations, businesses, courts, individuals, parent leaders, or others who have made an exceptional contribution to promoting the health and well-being of children and families. Awardees will be publicly recognized at the virtual 23rd National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) in April 2023. Awardees also will be recognized on the official website of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and through social media and other CB information dissemination channels. In addition, they will receive a commemoration of their award in the mail.¹

AWARD CATEGORIES

Awards will be given in six areas:

- **Advancing Equity.** Institutional racism, inequity, and bias are widespread and deeply ingrained in American society, including child welfare policies and programs. Significant disparities exist across all measures of health and well-being for people of color, LGBTQIA+ individuals, disabled individuals, and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. Nominees in this category will have demonstrated a commitment to promoting equity, and addressing racism and bias in systems and organizations that serve children and families. Contributions may include driving systemic change through anti-racist policies and encouraging dialogue around these issues; reducing overrepresentation in the child welfare system; promoting workforce diversity at all levels; and promoting fair and equitable access to support services.
- **Building Community Capacity.** A wide array of stakeholders and systems must work together, guided by the communities they serve, to build programs and systems that get needed supports to families where they are and when they need it. Nominees in this category will have demonstrated a commitment to initiatives that leverage diverse community-based partnerships to better serve children and families, including those that reach rural communities, engage non-traditional partners, or move beyond traditional services.

¹ There is no monetary component to the award.



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- **Preventing Child Maltreatment.** Nominees in this category will have demonstrated a commitment to prioritizing families and focusing on primary prevention activities that, through flexible funding and community-based services, strengthen the protective capacities of all parents and help all families thrive. This could include efforts to reach out and engage families before they come to the attention of child welfare, to address the structural issues that place families under stress, or to change community norms and practices around supporting families—particularly in ways that promote equity and social justice.
- **Promoting Child and Family Well-being.** Supporting the physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of all children and families is a priority. Nominees in this category will have demonstrated a commitment to fostering the social, educational, economic, behavioral, cognitive, and relational well-being of children and families, including promoting equity, addressing trauma, strengthening protective factors, building resilience, and ensuring that youth leave care with the relationships, supports, and opportunities they need to transition successfully into adulthood.
- **Reshaping Foster Care as a Support for Families.** Engagement with the child welfare system should have positive impacts on children and families—equipping parents and caregivers with enhanced protective factors, skills, and supports to safely care for their children and improve child well-being. Even when parents are unable to keep their children safe at home, children need to feel connected to their parents, siblings, and relatives. Nominees in this category will have demonstrated a commitment to keeping families meaningfully engaged and connected, even when out-of-home care is necessary. Contributions could be in such areas as support to birth parents to address the stressors that brought them to the child welfare system; supporting kinship caregivers; promoting healthy relationships between birth and foster parents; providing timely and successful reunification; and reducing unnecessary removal and trauma.
- **Supporting the Workforce.** To serve families well, we must have a strong, competent, and healthy workforce. An effective child welfare system requires social workers, attorneys, and other service providers to have adequate supports and supervision, manageable workloads, and the skills needed to do their work well. Nominees in this category will have demonstrated a commitment to supporting the workforce in ways that enhance workers' effectiveness and well-being

ELIGIBILITY

Nominees may be either individuals or groups such as child welfare agencies, community-based organizations, businesses, government agencies, or other collaborations or partnerships. The CB encourages nominations representing a diversity of backgrounds, communities, and perspectives, including diverse professions or fields of practice; urban, suburban, and rural areas; racial and ethnically diverse populations; and involvement at the national, state, and local levels. Parent leaders and others with lived experience in the child welfare system who are working to make a difference in the field are encouraged to apply. *Please note that Federal staff and Federal contractors are not eligible for the awards.*



SUBMITTING A NOMINATION

Nominations should be submitted using the online [CB Champion Awards Nomination Portal](#). Nominations for the Champion Awards will be accepted beginning Wednesday, September 7, 2022, and NO LATER THAN 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Wednesday, November 2, 2022. Anyone may nominate one or more candidates. Self-nominations are welcomed. Only material submitted through the online portal will be considered.

The online nomination form requires a detailed description of why the nominee deserves to receive a Champion Award. To the best of your ability, respond to each of the selection criteria for the awards. You may be as creative as you wish in conveying the information, but please be specific and provide clear examples.

Please present the information as if the reviewer knows nothing about the nominee. Supplemental or supporting material that demonstrates the impact of the work, including articles, letters of support, and website and video links, may also be submitted through the portal.

NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

To submit nominations using the online awards nomination portal, you will need to create an account and complete the form following the instructions below.

Step 1: Create your credentials:

- At the top of the page, click on "Create an Account."
- Complete the sign-up sheet and create your password.
- Click "Continue" to be logged into the site and begin your submission.

Step 2: Begin the submission by filling in the Submitter fields with your contact information (so we can follow up as needed):

- Your Name
- Your Email Address
- Your Phone Number

Step 3: Provide contact information on your nominee:

- About the nominee:
 - Name
 - Address, City, State, Zip Code
 - Phone Number
 - Email Address

Step 4: Provide brief information about your nomination.

- Offer a brief description of the nominee (who they are, what they do).
- Select the nominee type (individual or agency, community-based partner, or other group).
- Select an award category:
 - Advancing Equity
 - Building Community Capacity
 - Preventing Child Maltreatment
 - Promoting Child and Family Well-being
 - Reshaping Foster Care as a Support for Families
 - Supporting the Workforce

Step 5: Describe for us the nominee's exceptional contribution to the health and well-being of children and families. Please be specific and provide clear examples.

If you are nominating an individual, please address the following criteria:

- **Overall Contribution(s):** How does this work contribute to the health and well-being of children and families in ways that relate to the award category?
- **Uniqueness/Innovation:** How are these contributions unique or innovative?
- **Leadership/Collaboration/Involvement:** How has the individual inspired others, built partnerships, or raised awareness in ways that have convinced others to take an active role in supporting families and promoting well-being?

For agencies, community-based partners, or other groups, please address the following criteria:

- **Overall Contribution(s):** How does this work contribute to the health and well-being of children and families in ways that relate to the award category? Describe what is being done and what has been accomplished thus far.
- **Uniqueness/Innovation:** How are these contributions unique or innovative?
- **Leadership/Collaboration/Involvement:** How has this work inspired others, built partnerships, or raised awareness in ways that have convinced others to take an active role in supporting families and promoting well-being?
- **Accountability:** Is there a demonstrated commitment to measuring outcomes, impact, and continuous improvement? Describe results to date.
- **Sustainability/Replication:** How will the work be sustained and expanded over time?

Step 6: Upload supplemental information.

If you want to add any supplemental information to support your nomination, click on the "Upload File" button.



Step 7: Submit your nomination.

When all the mandatory nomination fields have been filled out, click the “Submit” button at the bottom of the page, or you can choose “Save As Draft” to come back to your submission and submit at a later time. Please note that you must have text in each of the required fields before your information can be submitted. Once a proposal is submitted, you can no longer make edits to that proposal. You may submit a new proposal.

If there is a problem with your submission, you will be notified either by an alert box indicating the problem or one of the fields will be highlighted.

If there were no problems with your submission, a message that your proposal was successfully submitted will appear. You can access your submitted proposals by logging in and clicking “View.” You can also start a new proposal by clicking “New proposal” up until the submission deadline of **November 2, 2022**.

Additional Information

Check your submission for accuracy. Please check your nomination and ensure that all of your information is complete and correct. The information you have provided will be used, as you have submitted it, to create our awards program. It is your responsibility to address any questions or make any requested changes by the deadline date of November 2, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact us at NCCAN@kauffmaninc.com.

For more information on the Children's Bureau Champion Awards and the 23rd National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, visit the website at <https://nccan.acf.hhs.gov>.