

Apply Now for the AHA Dick Davidson NOVA Award

The American Hospital Association invites you to apply for the 2027 AHA Dick Davidson NOVA Award. Presented annually, the Award celebrates outstanding partnerships between your hospital and community organizations that improve community health. The application asks you to describe how your program collaborates with community organizations or unrelated hospitals and health systems and demonstrates impact, innovation, replicability and sustainability.

Up to five winners will be honored at the [Healthier Together Conference](#), May 4-6, 2027, in Anaheim, Calif. One representative from each honored organization will receive complimentary registration, airfare, and two nights to attend the Healthier Together Conference.

This is a hospital award, not a health system award. If a hospital program is chosen for the Award, the hospital that applied—not the entire system—will be recognized.

Award Eligibility

All U.S. hospitals that are AHA members in good standing can apply. Hospital collaborations must be with community organizations and agencies and/or with unrelated hospitals or health systems.

Please note: Only one hospital per healthcare system is eligible to apply. If your organization is a member of a healthcare system, please contact system leadership to ensure only one hospital applies from your system. Multiple applications from the same system will not be reviewed.

Evaluation and Judging

The AHA Dick Davidson NOVA Award Committee, comprising experts in population and community health, reviews applications and selects honorees. AHA is grateful for the extensive volunteer contributions made by Committee members.

Requirements

Programs must be operational for at least two years at the time of submission.

Applications submitted by vendors and/or consultants will not be reviewed. The application must come from hospital staff.

Honored programs must:

- Identify key leaders to work with AHA and move the field forward.
- Participate in outreach and education.
- Provide logos, photos and videos for AHA use.
- Designate a representative for the Award presentation and a panel discussion at the Healthier Together Conference.

All applications become the property of the American Hospital Association and may be used to share best practices and case studies. In these cases, AHA will contact the organization to explore its interest in participating.

Additional Guidance

- Use concise, bullet-pointed responses with clear examples. If a system or mechanism that you have already described as a response to one question is also relevant to another answer, please feel free to refer to the original description rather than repeat it.
- Outcome measures are **strongly preferred** over process measures.
- Use data from the past two years with benchmarking comparisons.
- Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- Submitted applications cannot be modified or edited.
- Each uploaded page should be single-sided with one table, graph, or chart per page. Applications that exceed the maximum allowed pages will not be reviewed.
- After submission, you will see a confirmation screen and receive a confirmation email. If you don't find the confirmation email in your inbox, check your clutter/spam/junk folders.

Deadline

Applications are due by **noon Central Time, Thursday, Oct. 8**. We are unable to accept late applications.

Begin an Application

To begin an application, close this tab. If you have not submitted an application for an AHA award in the past 12 months, you will need to create an account before beginning the application.

If you have any questions about the Award or completing the application, please email nova@aha.org.