



# HEALTH QUALITY INNOVATORS O F T H E Y E A R

## Nominate Your Team for the Health Quality Innovators of the Year Award!

The Health Quality Innovators of the Year Awards represent HQI's commitment to improving health care in communities by recognizing organizations who are using evidence-based approaches to quality improvement.

Awards will be given in five categories:

- **Collaboration**
- **Health Equity**
- **Patient Engagement and Activation**
- **Population Health**
- **Rural Health**

**Who is eligible for an award?** Nominees must be health care providers, partners and/or stakeholders who have worked with HQI on any quality improvement initiatives or engagements since July 2020. Nominations will be reviewed by a committee of judges representing health care organizations, HQI's Patient and Family Advisory Council and HQI's team members.

Visit [hqi.solutions/awards/](https://hqi.solutions/awards/) to learn more.

The online nomination form will open September 7, 2021.

# AWARD CATEGORIES & CRITERIA

## Collaboration

The **Collaboration** category recognizes the efforts of organizations committed to bringing others together to solve health care challenges. Nominees must demonstrate a commitment to improving health care in the communities they serve by creating partnerships that are:

- Bringing together individuals and organizations with different perspectives and engaging patients/caregivers, social/faith-based organizations, local government, transportation services, emergency medical services and/or others working outside of the health care system.
- Creating a plan for action that shares work and responsibility among all partners, in a way that leverages their strengths.
- Embracing a patient and family-centered approach that reflects diversity and addresses disparities.
- Building consensus about improvement priorities and raising awareness of the need for action to improve care.
- Making at least initial progress toward reaching goals.

## Health Equity

The **Health Equity** category recognizes organizations that have successfully implemented interventions to address disparities by race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, geographic location, disability, and/or sexual orientation across a range of conditions. Nominees in this category should exhibit a commitment to reducing disparities by:

- Implementing evidence-based practices or programs that increase the use and availability of preventive services or treatments.
- Demonstrating improvement in health outcomes.
- Establishing strong partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Integrating cultural competence best practices among organization's workforce to deliver unbiased person-centered care.
- Using data collection and monitoring to evaluate the impact of interventions.

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## Patient Engagement and Activation

The **Patient Engagement and Activation** category recognizes organizations that have made the commitment to partner with patients, families and caregivers to adopt effective patient engagement strategies to ensure care processes are patient-centered by:

- Establishing Patient and Family Advisory Councils (PFACs) or leveraging existing PFAC to inform strategies for health care design and delivery.
- Improving communication between patients and clinicians, and coordination among health care providers and/or community partners.
- Engaging patients and families as equals in making health care decisions.

## Population Health

The **Population Health** category recognizes organizations that work to improve the health of patients and communities through prevention, treatment, and improved access to care. Nominees should exhibit a commitment to improving community health by:

- Demonstrating patient-centered strategies to improve individual community health.
- Implementing evidence-based practices or programs that increase the use and availability of preventive services or treatments for underserved populations.
- Educating and equipping people to take better care of themselves.
- Demonstrating improvement in health outcomes.
- Using data collection and monitoring to evaluate the impact of interventions.

## Rural Health

The **Rural Health** category recognizes **rural health care facilities\*** that have made outstanding contributions to rural health care. Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to improving health services for individuals in rural areas by:

- Demonstrating improvement in health outcomes.
- Improving communication and coordination among patients, families/caregivers, health care providers and/or community partners.
- Embracing a patient and family-centered approach that reflects diversity and engages patients and families as equals in health care decision making.
- Using the data collection and reporting functionalities of electronic health records to drive improvement.
- Making preventive services or treatments more accessible to those who need **them**.

\*Nominee must meet the **Rural Health Information Hub's** definition of rural. To verify if a nominee is rural, you may access the **Am I Rural? Tool**.

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