

2022 Sapphire Awards Nomination Application Guidelines

Deadline: October 14, 2021

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE STARTING YOUR NOMINATION APPLICATION

Background and Purpose of the Sapphire Awards

In 2022 the Florida Blue Foundation will celebrate 17 years of presenting the Sapphire Awards to individuals, programs and organizations focused on helping people and communities achieve better health. The first set of honorees were in 2005. Since that year 123 Sapphire Awards, totaling more than \$5.9 million, have been awarded to individuals, programs, and organizations from across Florida.

The Sapphire Awards will honor, through a competitive external review process, outstanding **individuals, organizations and programs** whose effectiveness and services are distinguished by exemplary leadership, innovation and documented outcomes and impacts in creating and/or providing excellence in services/programs in **Health Equity**.

Health Equity Goal: To improve health equity to ensure that families and community members have both the access and opportunity to attain full health potential and are not disadvantaged due to environmental, economic, and social circumstance.

Target Issues

- Access to health and health care for underserved populations
- Provider awareness and education around the health inequity of patients
- Access to health education

[For purposes of this program, *Health Equity means when every person has achieved the opportunity to “attain his or her full health potential” and no one is “disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.”

**CDC’s National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP)]*

The Sapphire Awards are not a grant program. While there is a financial award, nomination applications should not be submitted with the sole intent of fundraising. The Sapphire Awards are designed to recognize what has been accomplished (demonstrated success), not what is hoped to be accomplished.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 8, 2021	Nomination Applications Open
September 15, 2021	Nomination Application Clarification Webinar 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. Please click the link below to join the Nomination Application Clarification Webinar: https://zoom.us/j/98106345330?pwd=dDkyeTdYM1luSkhiOWZzWldpU1I3QT09 Passcode: 25098503
October 14, 2021	Deadline to submit Nomination Applications
April 6, 2022	Finalists and unsuccessful nominators will be notified
May 4, 2022	Sapphire Awards Honorees will be announced at the Sapphire Awards Dinner Honorees must be present to accept the award

NOMINATION APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Organizations and Programs

- An **Organization** may submit a Sapphire Award nomination application to seek recognition for the collective impact of all its health-related services/interventions.
- An **Organization** seeking recognition for a single health-related program should submit a **PROGRAM** nomination application.
- Organizations submitting applications for a Sapphire Award **must be incorporated in the state of Florida** and the programs for which they are seeking recognition, either individually or collectively, must be currently conducted in the state of Florida. **The nominated organization must be in operation for a minimum of five (5) years. The nominated program must be in operation for a minimum of three (3) years.**
- Organizations applying for a Sapphire Award must be a 501(c)(3) organization, or a unit of Florida government (e.g., county health department, K-12 school, college, university, etc.).
- **Organizations named as “Winners”** of the Sapphire Awards in previous years for the collective impact of all their health-related programs may **not** submit another ORGANIZATION nomination application. Organization Winners also may **not** submit PROGRAM nomination applications.
- **Programs named as “Winners”** of the Sapphire Awards in previous years for the impact of a single health-related program may **not** reapply for the same program. These Winners may submit a nomination application seeking recognition for a different program.

- Type III Supporting Organizations and private foundations are **not** eligible to submit a nomination application.

Individuals

- Nominated individuals
 - Must be licensed health care professionals, administrators or volunteers who have worked and/or volunteered in the state of Florida with a “qualified” health-serving organization(s) that is/are physically located in Florida. Qualified health-serving organizations must be a 501(c)(3) organization, or a unit of Florida government (e.g., county health department, K-12 school, college, university, etc.).
 - Must have a proven record of **more than five (5) years**.
 - Can be active or retired.
 - Must be alive and a resident of Florida at the time the nomination application is submitted. Posthumous nomination applications will not be considered.
- Individuals may be nominated
 - For their work as a professional, service as a volunteer, or a combination of both and the nomination should focus heavily on the individual’s professional work and/or volunteer service performed in Florida.
 - For a career that spans more than one organization or community, with a focus on Florida.
 - By a peer, colleague, co-worker, staff member, board member, volunteer, patient, client from the organization where the individual works and/or volunteers, or from separate organizations. Spouses and family members may **not** be nominators nor references for the individual category.
- Self-nomination applications for the individual category will **not** be accepted.
- **Individuals named as “Winners”** of the Sapphire Awards in previous years may **not** be nominated for another Sapphire Award.

Nomination Applications

- Nomination applications can come from one person familiar with the organization, program or individual being nominated.
- Nomination applications must include two (2) *References* from non-staff people such as current/former patients/clients, community leaders, elected officials, funders, or representatives from partner agencies/organizations. Spouses and family members may **not** be references.
- Nomination applications from spouses and family members will **not** be accepted.

SPECIAL NOTES

- Current and former employees, retirees and board members of the Florida Blue Foundation, Florida Blue (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida), the subsidiaries and affiliates of Florida Blue and GuideWell Mutual Holding Corporation, as well as spouses and family members, cannot serve as a nominator or reference. Additionally, current and former members of the Sapphire Awards Review and Selection Committees, as well as their spouses and family members, cannot submit a nomination or reference.
- Spouses and family members of individuals, organizations and programs to be nominated may **not** be a nominator nor a reference.
- Florida Blue Foundation does not make grants or charitable contributions to organizations that discriminate in their provisions of goods and services based on race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, Veteran status or marital status.
- All chosen finalists **must be available** for interviews and filming by the Foundation and **must be present** at the Sapphire Awards program and dinner on May 4, 2022.

AWARD DETAILS

Award funds will be distributed to the honorees based on the level of recognition and announced at the Sapphire Awards program on May 4, 2022.

SUBMITTING A NOMINATION APPLICATION

The Florida Blue Foundation uses an online application process. After you have **read/printed/saved** the 2022 Sapphire Awards Nomination Application Guidelines, please [click here](#) to start a new Individual, Organization or Program nomination application; access an existing nomination application you created and saved; or submit a completed nomination application.

NEED HELP?

Phone: (800) 477-3736, ext. 63215

Email: floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com

Florida Blue Foundation is a trade name of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Foundation, Inc., an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.