

Sapphire Awards – Recognizing Excellence and Innovation in Community Health



The annual Florida Blue Foundation's Sapphire Awards recognize community leaders and innovators that are effectively addressing health issues in their communities. This year, \$470,000 was awarded to seven individuals and organizations for their work in addressing issues of poverty and opioids/substance abuse.

Due to COVID-19, the honorees will be recognized at next year's dinner as part of the Foundation's Community Health Symposium, which brings together health advocates from across the country to discuss major health issues.

Since 2005, more than \$5.5 million has been invested and 114 Sapphire awards given to 29 individuals and 85 programs and organizations in Florida. View a complete list of previous years' Sapphire Award winners [here](#).

2020 Winners

Individual category

- **Sergio Palacio**, Immediate Past Executive Director and Board Member, Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County
Award focus: Poverty
Award amount: \$50,000
- **Kathryn Thomas**, Founder and Executive Director, Yoga 4 Change, Duval County
Award focus: Opioids/Substance Abuse
Award amount: \$50,000

Program category

- **Medication-Assisted Treatment for People with Opioid-Use Disorder**, Memorial Foundation, Broward County
Award focus: Opioids/Substance Abuse
Award amount: \$70,000
- **IDEA Syringe Services Program**, University of Miami, Miami-Dade County
Award focus: Opioids/Substance Abuse
Award amount: \$70,000

Organization category

- **Gateway Community Services**, Duval County
Award focus: Opioids/Substance Abuse
Award amount: \$100,000
- **Metropolitan Ministries**, Hillsborough County
Award focus: Poverty
Award amount: \$100,000

Finalist (Program Category)

Program Category

- **Miami Hope Clinic**, Chapman Partnership, Miami-Dade County
Award focus: Poverty
Award amount: \$30,000

About the Florida Blue Foundation

Florida Blue Foundation enables healthy communities by making grants, building coalitions and rewarding best practices. More than three million people in Florida have received direct health services as a result of grants made to nonprofit organizations since our founding in 2001. 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. Learn more about the foundation [here](#).