RWJF Award for Health Equity

Frequently Asked Questions

What is RWJF Award for Health Equity program?
The RWJF Award for Health Equity program advances RWJF’s vision for building a Culture of Health by celebrating individuals who have implemented systems changes to advance health equity.

What are the goals of the RWJF Awards for Health Equity program?
The program aims to:
- highlight systems-level solutions to advancing health equity throughout the nation;
- recognize and increase the visibility of individuals who implement systems change solutions to inequities each year; and
- build a growing network of cross-sector organizations and leaders working to advance health equity.

Who selects the award recipients?
RWJF has funded nine national membership organizations (representing varied sectors) to administer the awards program over seven years (2016-2022). Grantees include:
- AIDS United
- Asian & Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health
- Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
- Hispanics in Philanthropy
- Leading Age
- National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
- National Civic League
- National Recreation and Park Association
- Youth MOVE National

How are the award recipients chosen?
Each of the national membership organizations listed above independently nominates individuals and selects an award recipient (one individual or a team of two) for work done within the past two years. Please see each organization’s website to view their nomination/application process.

How can I be nominated or apply for the RWJF Award for Health Equity?
Please visit each of our grantee organization’s websites for details on the nomination/application process.
Can an award recipient be selected to receive the award more than once?
No; an award recipient can receive the RWJF Award for Health Equity only once.

Are organizations eligible to apply or be nominated for the award?
No; the awardees must be individuals or teams of no more than two individuals.

What do award winners receive?
Award recipients receive an unrestricted cash prize of $3,000 from the selecting organization. When a team of two individuals is selected, the individuals will split the $3,000 award. Award recipients also receive national recognition at the selecting organization’s annual meeting or gathering of members. In addition, RWJF hosts an annual event to honor and learn from the award recipients and grantee organizations. Public promotion surrounding the annual announcement of awards is a collaborative effort between RWJF and the selecting organizations.

Is this program focused only in the U.S., or are international efforts recognized as well?
This program is focused solely in the U.S., as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s mission is to improve the health and health care of everyone in America.

When will the award recipients be announced?
Announcements of the winners will take place at: (1) each organization’s annual gathering of members (date and locations vary by organization); and (2) an annual recognition and learning event at RWJF (highlighting the work of all winners for that year) in December.

Where can I find examples of systems changes?
Please see our blog posts “A New Approach to Eliminating Health Disparities” and “Investing in Systems to Transform Lives.”

Where can I find information on past award recipients and their work?
The RWJF website lists all previous award recipient at rwjf.org/equityaward. You can also hear from our award winners on You Tube Introduction - RWJF Awards for Health Equity and RWJF Awards for Health Equity: In Their Own Words—Insights from the Award Winners.

Whom should I contact with other questions about the award?
You may direct questions to afhe@rwjf.org.