



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

# Health Equity Innovation Award

KFMC Health Improvement Partners is pleased to announce the fourth annual Health Equity Innovation Award. The award recognizes organizations, affiliated groups, partnerships, or individuals who have developed and implemented novel approaches, strategies, and innovations aimed at closing critical gaps in their communities and advancing health equity.

Award winners demonstrate novel approaches, strategies, or interventions that reduce health disparities and promote lasting, equitable change in Kansas communities.

All submissions will be evaluated using the criteria outlined on page two. Nominations will be reviewed by a panel of independent evaluators representing diverse sectors impacted by health disparities and inequities.

**The award will be presented at the Kansas Health Impact Conference on Thursday, October 29, 2026, in Topeka, Kansas.**

### **2025 Health Equity Innovation Award Recipient:**

*City of Lawrence Homeless Response Team, Homeless Solutions Division*

The City of Lawrence Homeless Response Team (HRT) was recognized for delivering integrated, mobile care that connects unsheltered individuals to medical, behavioral health, and housing support. By removing common barriers to access, the team has driven measurable impact, including a 63% reduction in unsheltered homelessness, increased housing placements, expanded access to lifesaving resources, and reduced preventable ER visits.

## **EXAMPLES OF HEALTH EQUITY INNOVATION MAY INCLUDE:**

### **Technology-based solutions:**

The use of technology, such as mobile health apps, telemedicine, and wearable devices, can improve access to health care services and health information for populations in remote or underserved areas.

### **Community Health Worker programs:**

These programs train individuals from the community to serve as liaisons between health care providers and community members. Community health workers can provide culturally competent care, health education, and advocacy, helping to bridge the gap between health care systems and marginalized populations.

### **Culturally tailored interventions:**

Designing interventions that consider cultural beliefs, values, and practices can improve engagement and health outcomes. This includes adapting health education materials, providing language services, and ensuring representation of diverse communities in health care decision-making.

### **Social drivers of health interventions:**

Recognizing that health disparities are influenced by social drivers such as education, housing, employment, and income, innovative programs can address these underlying factors. For example, initiatives that provide access to affordable housing, education and job training, or income support can have positive impacts on health equity.

### **Collaborative partnerships:**

Building partnerships among health care providers, community organizations, government agencies, and other stakeholders can foster innovative approaches to address health disparities. Collaborative efforts can leverage resources, expertise, and collective action to tackle complex health equity challenges.

## **CRITERIA FOR THE HEALTH EQUITY INNOVATION AWARD:**

### **Impact on health disparities:**

Degree to which the nominee addresses and reduces health disparities among different populations, particularly those that are marginalized and underserved. Include why the population was targeted.

### **Reach and accessibility:**

The nominee's ability to reach and benefit their targeted population, taking into account how they improve access to health care services, health information, and/or resources for marginalized communities, including those facing barriers such as geographic location, language, and/or socioeconomic status.

### **Cultural competence:**

The nominee demonstrates cultural competence and sensitivity by considering the unique needs, beliefs, and values of the target population, including how they address cultural barriers and promote inclusivity and understanding.

### **Sustainability and scalability:**

The potential for the intervention to be sustained over time and replicated in different settings or communities. This includes its feasibility, cost-effectiveness, scalability, and potential for long-term impact.

### **Collaboration and partnerships:**

The nominee promotes collaboration and partnership among stakeholders, such as health care providers, community organizations, policymakers, and individuals from the affected communities.

### **Evidence-based (if applicable):**

There is evidence supporting the innovation, including research, data, and/or evaluation studies demonstrating its effectiveness in improving health equity outcomes if available.

**The Innovation Award Winner will be granted a \$500 cash award, free registration to the Kansas Health Impact Conference, and recognition at the event and in subsequent social media and marketing campaigns.**

# HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

Any organization or individual may submit a nomination for themselves or for a third party. Nominations should highlight organizations, individuals, or groups promoting health equity in Kansas.

All nominations will be reviewed to ensure that recognition or the award would not create an appearance of conflict with KFMC's mission or contract work.

More information about the Kansas Health Impact Conference and the Health Equity Innovation Award can be found on our [website](#).

**Nominations are due by Thursday, August 20, 2026.**

**NOMINATION FORM**

**SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM\***

*\*You may also attach additional description, photos, documents, links, etc.*

## FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

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**Thursday, October 29, 2026**  
Maner Conference Center  
1717 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66612