



NAEH CY 2017 Awards Nominations Now Open

Guidelines

- There is no limit on the number of nominations that may be submitted by any one party; however, a separate nomination form must be completed for each nomination submitted.
- Programs/individuals may be nominated in one category only.
- Nominations should emphasize the educational element of serving homeless children and youth.
- Nominees need not meet all criteria listed in the criteria section of each category. The criteria should serve as a representative guideline.
- Nominees for all award categories will be notified of final decisions regarding award winners by the NAEHCY Award Chair prior to the Annual NAEHCY Conference.
- Nominations that include videos, CDs, DVDs, print materials, or any copyrighted media material either must include a link to the web address (URL) where the resource may be accessed, or must include six (6) hard copies of the item(s) for review by Awards Committee members to be provided via U.S. mail. These are the only items that will be accepted by mail and should be sent to NAEHCY Awards Chair at:

NAEH CY
P.O. Box 26274
Minneapolis, MN 55426

Email: awards@naehcy.org

Nomination Submission Instructions

Each award nomination must include the following:

- A completed online nomination form.
- A minimum one-page narrative* written by the person submitting the nomination, including the following: Information regarding the relationship between the nominee and the person submitting the nomination.
- A detailed description of how the nominee has met or exceeded the criteria indicated for that nomination category.
- An explanation of why the nominee is deserving of, and qualified to receive, the award.
- Information related to the outcomes of the nominees' efforts.
- Two letters of support* written by people familiar with the work of the nominee: These letters of support must be submitted in addition to the narrative mentioned above. Only two letters should be submitted; if additional letters are submitted, only the first two will be reviewed.
- Six (6) copies of any nomination-related videos, CDs, DVDs, print materials, or any copyrighted media materials, as detailed above, if applicable.



***IMPORTANT:** The narrative and letters of support must be submitted electronically as part of the online nomination form. The online nomination form does not accept file uploads; as such, the narrative and letters may be typed directly into the online nomination form or may be copied and pasted in from a Microsoft Word document or PDF file. NAEHCY recommends composing the narrative and letters of support in Microsoft Word, as copying and pasting text from Microsoft Word may be easiest.

Incomplete applications or applications that are not submitted in compliance with application instructions may be disqualified.

NAEH CY Annual Awards Categories

Persons who wish to submit an awards nomination should review the categories and related criteria below to determine the most appropriate category for each nomination.

CATEGORY ONE: Outstanding Program or Project

Nominations for this category will be reviewed using the following criteria:

Individual(s) or group shows a great understanding of the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness as demonstrated in efforts to:

- Conduct service projects to assist homeless children, youth and families. (Program or project may be schoolwide, classroom related, or initiated by an individual student.)
- Provide a welcoming and supportive environment for children and youth experiencing homelessness in their school.
- Increase school and community awareness of homelessness.
- Project(s) should be of educational benefit to the student or class.

CATEGORY TWO: Outstanding Advocate

Nominations for this category will be reviewed using the following criteria:

1. Individual possesses a great understanding of the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness demonstrated in efforts to:

- Meet the needs, especially the academic needs, of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Support and encourage children and youth experiencing homelessness and their families.
- Increase awareness among colleagues and community members of homelessness.
- Support and encourage children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Increase awareness and sensitivity of other children to the issues of homelessness.
- Remove barriers to the academic success of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Conduct awareness activities for school and district staff and community members of the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Involve and develop rapport with parents.
- Implement cross-program and community collaboration.

2. Peers, colleagues, and others consistently recognize this individual as being dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth experiencing homelessness. (This recognition may be formal or informal.)



CATEGORY THREE: Distinguished Service and Leadership

Nominations for this category will be reviewed using the following criteria:

Individual or group demonstrates extraordinary service and/or leadership to children, youths and families experiencing homelessness in one or more of the following areas:

- Advocacy
- Partnerships
- Education
- Direct Service

Focus of work should be clearly linked to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The nominees in this category may be an individual or group that already operates within the NAEHCY organization; or may be an individual or group not currently associated with NAEHCY. If a nominee is not currently operating in coordination with NAEHCY, they should be working toward the same goal areas as NAEHCY. (Especially goals such as advocacy, partnerships, and/or education.)

CATEGORY FOUR: Best Targeted Campaign

Nominations may be submitted for media presentations produced for print, audio, visual, artistic, or other formats. (Examples may include, but are not limited to, film/documentary, television, photo-essay, newspaper/magazine/journal, radio, etc.) Submissions related to items such as videos, CDs, DVDs, print materials, or any copyrighted media materials must include six (6) copies of the item(s) for review by Awards Committee members, as specified on the previous page.

Nominations for this category will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Product should be clear in purpose.
- Product should include critical messages relating to the needs of homeless children, youth and families, especially educational/academic needs.
- Product should portray the resilience and achievements of homeless children, youth and families as well as their needs.
- Product must include factual, current information with data sources.
- Product should be visually attractive.
- Product should be presented in a creative manner.
- Product should be technically well done.
- Product should be generally applicable beyond a particular state or district.
- Product should align with McKinney-Vento law and best practices.

CATEGORY FIVE: SPECIAL AWARD - The Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award

Background Information

Sandra Neese was a founding member of Nevada's homeless youth education office in 1988. For the next 10 years, she gave of herself tirelessly so that all children in this region may have what most take



for granted: safety, shelter, and a future. A child advocate at heart, she was a professor at the University of Nevada, Reno and established a mentor program for student athletes that thrives to this day. She was also a founding board member of Community Chest, Inc. in 1991, the location of Nevada's homeless youth education office, and rural non-profit agency serving children and families in northern Nevada. She loved the outdoors, New York City, ballroom dancing, and traveling. In the fall of 1998, Sandra faced her greatest challenge: a cancer that would not relent. I have never seen a woman display more courage in the face of death. Giving of herself to the end, she personified what it means to leave the world a better place.

In memory of her magnanimous spirit, Community Chest, Inc. established the Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award to honor people like Sandra who have given so much of their lives so that young people without shelter may find the promise of tomorrow.

Shaun Griffin
Community Chest, Inc.
Published in "The Beam," October 1999

CATEGORY SIX: Dr. Staci Perlman Achievements in Research Award

Background Information

This award was established to honor Dr. Staci Perlman, who, through her work as a researcher, contributed greatly toward advancing access to early care and education programs for children and youth experiencing homelessness and the mission of NAEHCY. The recipient of this annual award should have a clear focus on the education, development, and/or well-being of children or youth experiencing homelessness of any age. Like Dr. Perlman, the awardee(s) should also successfully link research to advocacy efforts and/or practice innovations to ensure that findings are informed by and can inform the field.

Nominations for this category will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Individual or group conducts research that addresses the academic needs, developmental needs, or overall well-being of children or youth experiencing homelessness and demonstrates efforts to:
- Disseminate research findings to increase awareness of the needs of children or youth experiencing homelessness.
- Leverage research findings for policy and practice change.
- Promote the voice of parents, children, and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Promote the voice of educators, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work directly with children or youth experiencing homelessness.
- Fill gaps in the general understanding of the needs of children or youth experiencing homelessness.