



**The Essence of Leadership Award Criteria**

***Who is the national nonprofit health and human service executive you most admire--the one who has accomplished the most and worked well in collaboration with others?***

***Name the national board leader who has accomplished incredible things and has done so bridging organizations and sectors.***

***Who in the media has not just reported well on health and human service issues but has made a difference with his or her reporting?***

***And what public figure has bridged the chasms of politics and other divisions to effect change that improved lives by improving the effectiveness of human service policies and programs?***

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The National Human Services Assembly, an association of leading national nonprofit organizations, invites your nominations for awards recognizing these kinds of people--people who exemplify the Essence of Leadership.

**Submissions are requested on or before July 10, 2008.**

Mark your calendar for September 25, 2008 as we recognize deserving individuals and celebrate this auspicious occasion. A reception will be held that evening in Washington, D.C.

The awards and nomination process are described below. Help us recognize the best. Feel free to share this announcement with others.

**Below you'll find criteria for:**

- **The Award for Excellence in National Executive Leadership**
- **The Award for Excellence in National Board Leadership**
- **The Award for Excellence by a Member of the Media**
- **The Award for Excellence in National Civic or Public Leadership**

## THE ESSENCE OF LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The four award categories are described below. Make certain you read the “FOR ALL AWARDS” section below as it applies to all award nominations.

Please include your name and full contact information as well as the full name and contact information for the person you are nominating.

### AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

- This award is for a chief professional officer (National Executive Director or President/CEO) of a national nonprofit health & human service organization who provides exceptional leadership in his or her own organization and in the nonprofit health & human services sector more broadly or a sub-sector thereof (e.g., health, youth development).
- The nominee must have three or more years of executive leadership in his/her current position. The primary consideration should be for recent outstanding accomplishments. Longevity of service should not be the main or only reason for the award.
- An effective nomination will denote in two typewritten pages or less: the professional and organizational history of the nominee; how the individual has exhibited exceptional leadership and effectiveness in his/her current organization, noting key innovations and achievements; how the individual provides leadership beyond his/her organization in the broader sector, noting any achievements in this regard; and, if appropriate, how the individual demonstrates collaboration with other organizations.

### AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NATIONAL BOARD LEADERSHIP

- This award is for a volunteer board member of a national nonprofit health & human services organization whose performance as a board member over time demonstrates the importance and value of volunteer directors and who has led the agency to significant accomplishments.
- The nominee must have three or more years of board leadership on current board.
- An effective nomination will denote in two typewritten pages or less: the professional and organizational history of the nominee, with an emphasis on his/her board career, especially with the organization(s) he/she now serves; how the individual has exhibited exceptional leadership and effectiveness in his/her current organization, noting key innovations and achievements; how the individual provides leadership beyond his/her organization in the broader sector and/or links organizations with which he/she is involved in order to achieve greater impact; and, if appropriate, how the individual demonstrates collaboration with other organizations.

### AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE BY A MEMBER OF THE MEDIA

- The award is for a representative of the national media who has provided fair, nonpartisan, thoughtful and thought-provoking coverage of health and human service needs, issues and services over a sustained period of time (three or more years).
- An effective nomination will denote in two typewritten pages or less: the professional history of the nominee, especially as it relates to covering health and human service needs and/or services; if relevant, the individual's professional or volunteer linkages with nonprofit health and human service organizations, including any leadership positions held and/or achievements; specific examples of issues the individual has covered which shed new light and/or provided balanced in-depth analysis of human needs, conditions, or services where he/she successfully drew a link between any combination of the following—needs/conditions, services, and policy; and specific examples of follow-up and/or sustained efforts on issues covered.

### **AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NATIONAL PUBLIC OR CIVIC LEADERSHIP**

- This award is for a public official, public figure, or corporate leader in the national arena who has provided sustained and effective leadership to improve the plight of people suffering or in need or to improve the delivery of health and human services and/or shaping policies that affect such services and needs.
- An effective nomination will denote in two typewritten pages or less: the professional and the civic involvement histories of the nominee, the latter particularly as it relates to health and human service needs or social conditions; specific examples of initiatives in which the individual has demonstrated sustained leadership relative to human needs, conditions, services, or policy; and at least one example where the individual demonstrated exceptional leadership beyond the ordinary boundaries of his/her organization and assignments and engaged other organizations or officials to achieve significant change or progress relative to human needs, conditions, services or policy.

### **FOR ALL AWARDS**

For every award, eligibility and recognition are intended for achieving results not for planned activity or excellence in current activities. In addition, in the spirit of the collaborative essence of the National Assembly, leadership in addressing issues collaboratively with other entities is a plus in the selection of honorees. Please note that where “achievement” or “achievements” are cited in the “An effective nomination...” section, we are seeking information on results achieved not ‘positions held.’ Citing ‘positions held’ is welcome but “achievements” is intended in this ‘results’ context. Also note that for the purposes of these awards “collaboration” is defined as cooperative and joint efforts among multiple entities (more than two) over a sustained period to achieve results greater than the entities could achieve individually.

Endorsement letters are welcome.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS ON OR BEFORE July 10, 2008 TO:

#### **LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

National Assembly  
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