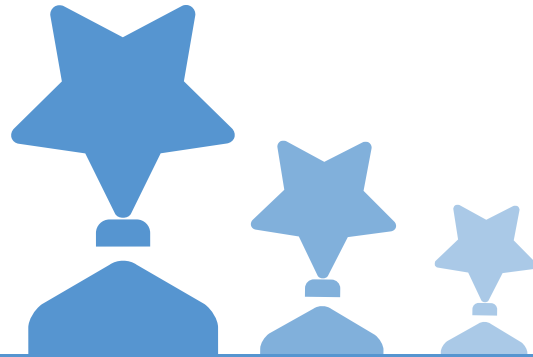


2026 Health Care & Innovation Awards



Nomination Deadline
July 13, 2026





DETAILS

Individuals working in District of Columbia hospitals strive every day to deliver compassionate, quality and safe patient care. DCHA is honored to highlight the incredible work of our member hospitals and their champions.

DCHA will present awards to two individuals: one clinical professional and one non-clinical professional. This award is to recognize the contribution of individuals within our member hospitals to advance health care delivery and operations. This individual should also exemplify:

- A dedication to continued delivery of essential services
- A commitment to patient safety and following safety protocols
- Unwavering efforts to delivering quality patient care

Award submissions must showcase how individuals go above and beyond normal daily work to manage and support hospital staff, patients, caregivers and the community.

Awards will be presented during the Health Care & Innovation Summit on October 21, 2026.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



Clinical Category (1)

Individuals who provide credentialed or non-credentialed direct patient care. Examples include nurse and physician at all levels, patient care technician, hospitalist, social worker, care coordinator, psychologist, dietitian, etc.



Non-Clinical Category (1)

Individuals who provide support services to staff, patients and caregivers in the hospital setting. Examples include environmental health services, security, food service, volunteer services, patient transport, administration, human resources, IT, device reprocessing, and administrative assistants.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 1 Be an employee of a DCHA member hospital.
- 2 Help DCHA promote your award by taking and sending photos for use in communication channels due to any virtual limitations that may arise.



[Click Here to Start Your Nomination](#)



SELECTION PROCESS

DCHA will collect the submissions for screening and evaluation by applying the award criteria. Submissions will be rated and reduced to two individual award winners. Judging will be performed by an anonymous committee appointed by the DCHA leadership. DCHA will send confirmation letters to winners. All decisions are final.

RECOGNITION

- Award winners will be honored and recognized during the Health Care & Innovation Summit, October 21, 2026.
 - Photo and profile will be highlighted on the DCHA website, newsletter and other DCHA communications.
 - Award winners and stories will be sent to local media.
 - Awardees will receive a cash prize – see award criteria.
 - DCHA will send letters to the hospital leadership describing the individual achievement.
-

DEADLINE: July 13, 2026

CONTACT

Eden Cunningham, Director, Patient Safety & Quality Initiatives, ecunningham@dcha.org



Health Care & Innovation Award Winners



2019 - 2025



Congratulations Clinical & Non-Clinical Professionals



From left to right, each row

- Dr. Khadijatou Njimoluh, Howard University Hospital
- Rachel Buckman, MedStar Washington Hospital Center
- Amanda Valentine, Howard University Hospital
- Constance Mere, Howard University Hospital
- LuTanya Wilson, BridgePoint Hospital Capitol Hill
- Rosalyn Johnson, United Medical Center
- Judy Zdobysz, MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital
- Dr. Tracy Meyer, Psychiatric Institute of Washington
- Betsy Gardner, MedStar Washington Hospital Center
- Richard Verstraete, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
- Rosie Dunkle, MedStar Washington Hospital Center
- Paul Quigley, Children's National Hospital
- Dr. Mani Ali-Carter, MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital
- Vineela Yannamreddy, United Medical Center
- Sydney Meszaros, Children's National Hospital
- Kathy Ibay, MedStar Washington Hospital Center