



## Community Resource Specialist of the Year Award

The Inform USA Community Resource Specialist of the Year Award celebrates individuals who have demonstrated exceptional expertise, dedication, and leadership within the field of Information and Referral (I&R). This distinguished award recognizes an Inform USA Certified professional in each core certification who has made a lasting and meaningful impact through their contributions, passion, and commitment to their organization and community. The recipient exemplifies the highest standards of excellence in their role, inspiring others and fostering growth and innovation within the profession.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be an Inform USA member in good standing.
- Nominees must hold at least one of the following Inform USA certifications:
  - Community Resource Specialist (CRS)
  - Community Resource Specialist - Aging/Disabilities (CRS - A/D)
  - Community Resource Specialist - Database Curator (CRS - DC)
- Nominees must be actively employed in the role for which they are being nominated.

### Nomination and Selection Process:

- Nominations can be submitted via an online form, available to all Inform USA members.
- Self-nominations are not permitted.
- Inform USA staff members and Certification Commission members are not eligible to submit nominations.
- The Inform USA Certification Commission will select the award recipient from the nominations received. Identifying information such as name and organization will be redacted from the info provided to the Commission.
- The Inform USA Certification Commission's decisions are final, and they reserve the right to withhold an award in any given year.



**Award:**

- The award will be presented to the recipient during the Inform USA Annual Conference Award Luncheon. The award will be shipped to their preferred address if the recipient cannot attend in person.

**Evaluation Rubric for the Community Resource Specialist of the Year Award**

The Community Resource Specialist of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding individual who has demonstrated exceptional expertise, leadership, and commitment to the field of Information and Referral (I&R). The following rubric will guide the evaluation process, assessing nominees based on their professional contributions, leadership, innovation, and overall impact within their organization and the broader I&R community.

**Evaluation Criteria**

Criteria	Description	Points
Professional Expertise	Demonstrates a high level of proficiency and expertise in their certified role. Effectively applies certification knowledge in their day-to-day work.	1-5
Impact on Organization & Community	Has made a measurable impact on their organization, clients, or community through their I&R work. Provides specific examples of positive outcomes.	1-5

Leadership & Mentorship	Actively demonstrates leadership by mentoring colleagues, sharing knowledge, and fostering teamwork. Plays an active role in improving the I&R field.	1-5
Innovation & Problem Solving	Introduces innovative ideas or solutions that address challenges in the I&R field. Creates or improves processes that enhance service delivery or efficiency.	1-5
Commitment to Professional Development	Demonstrates a commitment to ongoing learning and professional development. Engages in training, education, or certifications to improve their skill set.	1-5
Excellence in Service	Consistently provides high-quality service and exemplifies the values and ethics of the I&R profession. Goes above and beyond in their role.	1-5
Inspiration to Others	Inspires and motivates others within their organization and the wider I&R community to strive for excellence and continuous improvement.	1-5
Overall Contribution to the I&R Field	Demonstrates dedication to the I&R field. Actively participates in initiatives or activities that advance the profession.	1-5



**Scoring Guide:**

1. Minimal or no contribution.
2. Limited or partial impact. Some contributions are evident but not widely demonstrated or sustained.
3. Moderate impact. The nominee has demonstrated significant contributions.
4. Strong impact. The nominee has made significant contributions with lasting, positive effects.
5. Exceptional impact. The nominee goes above and beyond, achieving notable accomplishments and influencing others profoundly.

**Total Points: 40**

The maximum score for each nomination is 40 points (5 points per category)