



Community Resource Specialist of the Year Award

The Inform USA Community Resource Specialist of the Year Award recognizes an Inform USA Certified professional in each core certification who has demonstrated exceptional expertise, dedication, and leadership in Community Navigation. The recipient exemplifies the highest standards of excellence in their role, inspiring others and fostering growth and innovation within the profession. They have made a lasting and meaningful impact through their contributions, passion, and commitment to their organization and community.

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 information 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, along with a \$50 Inform USA credit, will be presented to the recipient during the Inform USA Annual Conference Award Luncheon. The award will be shipped to the recipient's preferred address if they cannot attend in person.
 - The recipient's next recertification fees will be waived
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Nomination Form

Name of Nominee:

Preferred Pronouns:

Nominee's Current Title/Position:

Please upload a recent photo (headshot) of the nominee.

Which award are you nominating this person for:

- Community Resource Specialist (CRS)
- Community Resource Specialist - Aging/Disabilities (CRS - A/D)
- Community Resource Specialist - Database Curator (CRS - DC)

Nominee's Organization Name:



Organization Legal Status

- Non-profit organization
- Government Entity
- For-profit company

Organization Type

- 211
- 988 / Crisis
- Area Agency on Aging
- Aging and Disability Resource Center
- Center for Independent Living
- Blended Crisis / 211
- Specialized - Children/Youth
- Specialized - Health
- Specialized - Military
- Specialized - Other
- Other / Not Applicable

Nominee's Contact Information:

Email:

Address:

Phone Number:

Nomination Justification:

Please describe why the nominee deserves this award based on the following criteria.

Professional Excellence & Impact

Describe how the nominee demonstrates expertise in their role and delivers high-quality, ethical service. Include specific examples of measurable impact on their organization, clients, community, or the Community Navigation Field.



(Suggested length: 250–400 words)

Leadership, Mentorship & Inspiration

Describe how the nominee leads, mentors, or inspires others. Include examples of knowledge sharing, teamwork, or influence within their organization or the broader community. (Suggested length: 200–350 words)

Innovation & Professional Growth

Describe how the nominee has introduced innovative ideas, improved processes, or solved challenges. Include examples of their commitment to ongoing learning or professional development. (Suggested length: 200–350 words)

Additional Support:

Is there something else you'd like to add to support this nomination?

Additional Supporting Materials (Optional):



Please upload any supporting materials, such as letters of recommendation or documentation that demonstrate the nominee’s accomplishments

Does the nominee know you have nominated them?

- Yes
- No

Evaluation Rubric for the Community Resource Specialist of the Year Award

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.

Award Evaluation Rubric | Total Possible Points: 21

Criteria	Description	Points
Professional Excellence & Impact	Demonstrates strong expertise in their role, consistently provides high-quality, ethical service, and achieves measurable positive outcomes for their organization, clients, community, and the field.	1-5
Leadership, Mentorship & Inspiration	Actively leads and mentors others, shares knowledge, fosters teamwork, and inspires colleagues and the broader community to pursue excellence and continuous improvement.	1-5

Innovation & Professional Growth	Introduces innovative solutions or process improvements that enhance service delivery or efficiency. Demonstrates a strong commitment to ongoing learning and professional development.	1-5
Additional Support	Additional context that illustrates the nominee’s impact and qualifications. Letters of support or recommendation, newspaper articles.	1-5
Bonus	An additional point may be awarded by reviewers to recognize an outstanding nominee.	1

Scoring Guidance

Professional Excellence & Impact

- **5 – Exceptional:** Outstanding mastery, exemplary service, measurable high impact.
- **4 – Strong:** High-level expertise, consistently strong outcomes above expectations.
- **3 – Proficient:** Competent, reliable service with clear positive impact.
- **2 – Developing:** Limited or inconsistent impact; examples minimal.
- **1 – Minimal:** Little to no evidence of expertise or impact.

Leadership, Mentorship & Inspiration

- **5 – Exceptional:** Highly influential leader/mentor; inspires broadly, recognized beyond role.
- **4 – Strong:** Regularly leads and mentors; positively influences culture or teams.

- **3 – Proficient:** Participates in teamwork or mentoring; positive contributions.
- **2 – Developing:** Limited leadership or mentorship; modest impact.
- **1 – Minimal:** Little or no leadership or inspirational evidence.

Innovation & Professional Growth

- **5 – Exceptional:** Drives meaningful innovation; strong, ongoing professional growth.
- **4 – Strong:** Introduces effective improvements; actively pursues learning.
- **3 – Proficient:** Shows commitment to learning; contributes some improvements.
- **2 – Developing:** Minimal innovation or professional development.
- **1 – Minimal:** No clear evidence of innovation or growth.

Additional Support

- **5 – Exceptional:** Highly relevant, detailed, and adds significant context.
- **4 – Strong:** Relevant and useful; adds meaningful context.
- **3 – Proficient:** Somewhat relevant; adds some context.
- **2 – Developing:** Limited relevance or vague information.
- **1 – Minimal:** Little or no relevant information.

Bonus Point

Total Possible Score: 21 points