



Inform USA Innovation Awards

The Inform USA Innovation Award recognizes organizations that have introduced impactful changes within their Information and Referral (I&R) services. Whether through a simple yet effective adjustment or the execution of a bold, complex strategy, this award celebrates innovations that make a meaningful difference in the delivery of services and community impact.

There are five awards, each corresponding to one of the Inform USA Standards, showcasing excellence and creativity across various areas of I&R. We encourage diverse interpretations of innovation, from small refinements to groundbreaking solutions!

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be an Inform USA organizational member in good standing
- Individual members are not eligible

Nomination and Selection Process:

- Nominations can be submitted via an online form, accessible to all Inform USA members.
- A submitted application provides Inform USA with permission to share the attributed information with other Inform USA members
- The selection of the award recipient will be made by the Inform USA Board President Alumni Committee based on the nominations received.
- If a member of the committee is or has been involved with a nominated organization, they must recuse themselves from the selection process.
- The Inform USA Board President Alumni Committee decisions are final, and they reserve the right to withhold an award in any given year.

Award:

- Each recipient will be presented with an inscribed plaque during the Award Luncheon at the Inform USA Annual Conference. If members of the recipient organization are not in attendance, the award will be shipped to their preferred address.



Innovation Award Evaluation Rubric

The following rubric will be used to evaluate nominations for the Inform USA Innovation Award. Each nomination will be assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 for each of the categories listed below. The total score will help determine the impact and potential of the innovation.

Evaluation Criteria:

Criteria	Description	Score Range
Most Formidable Challenge	How significant or difficult was the problem or issue that the innovation addressed? Was the challenge substantial enough to warrant a creative solution?	1-5
Decision-Making and Implementation Process	How effectively was the innovation implemented? Was the decision-making process thoughtful and strategic? Were key stakeholders involved?	1-5
Most Impressive Outcome	How impactful was the outcome of the innovation? Consider the measurable improvements, success stories, and tangible results.	1-5
Potential Applicability	How easily can the innovation be adapted or implemented by other organizations? Does it have the potential for broad applicability or scalability?	1-5

Overall Impression	The overall impression of the innovation based on the information provided. Does the innovation stand out as exceptional in terms of creativity, impact, and relevance to the field?	1-5
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Scoring Guide:

1. Does not meet the expectations for this criterion.
2. Meets some aspects of the criterion but lacks depth or clarity.
3. Meets criteria with a solid explanation or result.
4. Exceeds expectations with clear evidence of success or impact.
5. Far exceeds expectations with exceptional and creative results that are highly impactful.

Total Score:

The maximum score for each nomination is **25 points** (5 points per category).