



## 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 service delivery and community impact.

Inform USA may award up to three Innovation Awards each year, showcasing excellence and creativity. We encourage diverse interpretations of innovation, from small refinements to groundbreaking solutions!

### What is an Innovation?

- ***It inspires!*** The process leading to the innovation, its implementation and its developer(s) will inspire future innovators in community navigation.
- ***It demonstrates leadership!*** The nominee(s) demonstrate leadership in their work. There is evidence of initiative, collaboration, risk-taking, and problem-solving in the development and implementation of the innovation.
- ***It makes an impact!*** The innovation has a positive effect on the organization, the staff, or the community. There is a quantifiable demonstration of the impact the innovation is having because of its successful implementation.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be an Inform USA organizational member in good standing
- Must have completed the Membership Profile. ([Learn more](#))
- 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:**

- The recipient will receive an inscribed plaque at the Award Luncheon during the Inform USA Annual Conference. If members of the recipient organization are not in attendance, the award will be shipped to their preferred address.
- The organization and its innovative submission will be highlighted in the Inform USA Newsletter and across various platforms and publications.
- The recipient will also be invited to present a session about their innovation at the next conference.

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**Innovation Award Nomination Form**

Nominee Information:

**Organization Name:**

**Organization Mailing Address:**

**Type of Community Navigation Offered:**

- 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

**Area of Innovation:**

- Service Delivery
- Resource Database
- Cooperative Relationships
- Disaster Preparedness
- Operational Effectiveness

**Summary of the Innovation**

*In one to two sentences, briefly summarize the innovation and its impact.*

*Write it like a headline!*

**Describe the Problem/Challenge that the Innovation Addressed**

*How significant or difficult was the problem or issue that the innovation addressed?*

**Describe the Decision-Making and Implementation Process**

*How was the innovation implemented? Was the decision-making process thoughtful and strategic?*

**Describe the Outcome/Impact of the Innovation**

*How impactful was the outcome of the innovation? Include measurable improvements, success stories, and tangible results.*

**Describe its Potential Applicability to Other Members**

*How easily can the innovation be adapted or implemented by other organizations?*

**Supporting Materials (Optional)**

Please attach any additional materials that may support this nomination, such as letters of recommendation, media coverage, or records of the nominee’s achievements.

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**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 1-5 scale for each category listed below. The total score will help determine the innovation's impact and potential.

Criteria	Description	Score Range
<b>Decision-Making and Implementation Process</b>	How effectively was the innovation implemented? Was the decision-making process thoughtful and strategic? Were key stakeholders involved?	1-5
<b>Most Impressive Outcome</b>	How impactful was the outcome of the innovation? Consider the measurable improvements, success stories, and tangible results.	1-5
<b>Potential Applicability</b>	How easily can the innovation be adapted or implemented by other organizations? Does it have the potential for broad applicability or scalability?	1-5
<b>Overall Impression</b>	The overall impression of the innovation is based on the information provided. Does the innovation stand out as exceptional in terms of creativity, impact, and relevance to the field?	1-5

### 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.
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**Total Score:**

The maximum score for each nomination is **20 points** (5 points per category).