



The Colorado Health Foundation™

Dr. Virgilio Licona Community Health Leadership Award Program Criteria and Nomination Application Requirements

Background on Award Program:

The Dr. Virgilio Licona Community Health Leadership Award Program is now open for nominations **through Tuesday, March 29**. This award program recognizes impassioned Coloradans who are finding innovative and effective strategies to overcoming community health barriers in Colorado.

A nationally recognized advocate for social justice and health equity, Dr. Licona contributed to the health of Coloradans as a physician and expert in migrant health and rural health care delivery. His role as a leader – at both the systems- and community-levels – brought a critical voice to some of the most important conversations and decisions for bringing health closer in reach for all Coloradans.

The award program is designed to:

- Recognize impactful efforts to advance health and health equity for Coloradans who have historically had less power and/or privilege
- Advance innovative, proven and replicable solutions to address critical health issues in Colorado communities
- Recognize the power of community health leadership in driving positive health outcomes
- Inspire others to strive toward Dr. Licona's standard of excellence and to honor those who embody his spirit of care, compassion, activism and dedication

Through this award program, the Foundation recognizes one Coloradan annually who demonstrates a distinguished track record of leadership in the communities they serve and in the systems they are working to disrupt for positive change.

A strong nomination application will demonstrate alignment with the following eligibility criteria:

- Nominee is a Colorado resident working in and serving Colorado communities
- Nominee's work aligns with the [Foundation's cornerstones](#) that advance our efforts to bring health in reach for all Coloradans
- Nominee is actively and intentionally working to advance health equity and improve health outcomes for all Coloradans
- Nominee has significantly influenced or contributed to positive systems-level and community-level change, such as implementing better public policies and/or practices in the field
- Nominee has fostered lasting connections and built bridges among people with differing backgrounds or viewpoints

- Nominee represents a community-based organization from any field that shows evidence of improving health outcomes in their community (e.g., education, health, public safety, housing, economic development, environment, etc.)

Nominations must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Each nominator is allowed one nomination
- Potential candidates may be nominated by more than one person
- Organizations may nominate more than one person, but may only submit a single nomination per candidate*
- No self-nominations will be considered
- No Foundation Board member, Board committee community member, staff or their immediate family members will be considered
- No posthumous nominations will be considered
- No standing elected officials will be considered

Nomination Schedule and Selection Process:

Award nominations are open to the public and will be accepted for consideration **through Tuesday, March 29**. The nominator will receive a confirmation of their submission via email.

Final decisions will be made by the Foundation's Board of Directors in the summer of 2022, and the awardee will be announced in the fall.

The award recipient will be offered the opportunity to designate a one-time \$20,000 donation to support their nonprofit or another nonprofit working to improve the health of Coloradans.**

Dr. Virgilio Licona Community Health Leadership Award Recipients:

[2016 – Dr. Virgilio Licona](#)

[2017 – Sundari Kraft](#)

[2018 – Liza Marron](#)

[2019 – Rebecca “Beka” Warren](#)

[2021 – Dr. Lilia Cervantes](#)

**We encourage individuals within an organization to collaborate on submitting a single application per candidate.*

***The award donation funds may be distributed to the winner's Colorado-based charity of choice, but “shall be used for such charities that do not enjoy substantial support through taxation.” As a result, the Colorado Health Foundation may only make a grant to a publicly-funded organization if the grant supports a specific project that does not receive most of its funding from public dollars.*