



IPHCA 2025 Awards of Excellence

The Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) is continuing a very special tradition by recognizing our colleagues who have dedicated their careers to improving health care access for the underserved. All 2025 Awards of Excellence awardees will be presented during the Annual Leadership Conference at the closing breakfast on October 24, 2025. Please consider nominating a colleague for an Award of Excellence! All Nominations are due by **July 11, 2025**.

Danny K. Davis Achievement Award

U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis is truly the champion of the community health center movement. On the forefront working in Illinois' health centers, as President of the National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc., and finally as a member of Congress, his dedication and faith in our ultimate goal has monumentally impacted our ability to increase access for the medically underserved.

Requirements: This is IPHCA's most prestigious award, and candidates must have rendered outstanding service to the community health center movement for at least ten years. They must have consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty to further health care access for those in need. The recipient of the Danny K. Davis Achievement Award is dedicated, selfless, and inspiring as a leader in his or her community. This individual need not be a staff member of a community health center.

George M. O'Neill Leadership Award

As one of the founders of the Illinois Primary Health Care Association, George O'Neill's leadership and vision have paved the way for the Association as a strong advocating body linking health centers across the state. As executive director of Shawnee Health Service and Development Corporation since 1972, his continued leadership has served as a catalyst for the development of critical services that once were lacking in southern Illinois. His active involvement on the county, state, and national levels has set the standard for future leaders.

Requirements: Candidates must have served as executive director/chief operating officer or a comparable leadership position within a health center for at least five years. Nominated individuals should be visionaries who empower and inspire their employees every day.

Consumer Board Dedication Award

Community board members represent the pulse of any health center. Their role is to guide the health center using sound business principles while responding to the needs of their community. This award will be presented to a community health center consumer board representative who exemplifies a high level of interest in, and dedication to, the delivery of primary health care services and the communities in which these services are provided.

Requirements: Candidates must have worked as a consumer board member in a community health center for at least three years.

Ramona Lopez Community Health Center Employee Award

In these days of increased mobility and job-hopping, it is highly unusual to find a person who has committed their entire career to one organization and its mission. For this reason, IPHCA proudly recognizes Ramona Lopez, who dedicated her 22-year career to furthering the mission of Chicago Family Health Center before retiring in 2000. Beginning as a family nurse practitioner and working her way up the ranks of clinic manager, assistant director, and, finally, executive director, Ramona fought to assure that quality health care be a right, not a privilege, regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

Requirements: Candidates must have worked in a community health center or another primary care provider in any capacity for at least five years. This individual must have demonstrated a strong dedication to continually improving the care/access to care provided by their organization. Candidates may be from any department of the health center organization.

Primary Health Care Clinician Devotion Award

Quality providers are the backbone of any community health center. Every day, they must continually balance the pressures of caring for the many in need, while assuring that each individual is treated with respect and provided with excellent care that is accessible, community-directed, and culturally competent. This award serves to recognize a special individual who faces this challenge every day in an effort to reduce the barriers that exist to health care in his or her community.

Requirements: Candidates must have worked as a clinician in a community health center or another primary care provider in any capacity for at least five years. This individual must be a direct service provider whose leadership in bringing health care services to the medically underserved should be recognized.

IPHCA Clinical Quality Champion Award

Under the guidance of IPHCA senior leadership and Board, the IPHCA Clinical Services Team has been instrumental in fostering clinical quality and workforce development infrastructure at IPHCA. Their services have been recognized by the joint commission, UIC School of Public Health and Illinois Academy of Family Physicians.

Requirements: Candidates must have served as quality improvement staff/clinical/medical director or a comparable leadership position within a health center for at least three years. Nominated individuals should be visionaries who empower and inspire their employees/colleagues for accomplishing high level of achievement of health center's quality improvement goals.

Nomination Form

IPHCA

Direct form link: <https://bit.ly/iphca-aoe25>



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