

# What's Great in Our State 2019:

A Forum to Celebrate Children's Mental Health Awareness



## Call for Nominations

### HISTORY

Each year since 2010, an interagency state-level committee made up of representatives from state child-serving agencies, mental health advocacy organizations and family/youth run organizations has planned an annual celebration. The committee has organized a recognition event in conjunction with the national Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. The event has recognized individuals, localities, agencies and programs that best exemplify the selected theme. The event is an opportunity to highlight positive work in New York State to promote the mental health of children, youth and young adults.

### 2019 WHAT'S GREAT IN OUR STATE

This year is no different! We plan to celebrate on Tuesday, May 7 in Albany (location to be determined). The event program is under development and will feature workshops, awardee recognition luncheon, a keynote and other speakers, and offer an opportunity to celebrate those working hard to produce positive outcomes for children, youth, young adults and families.

The 2019 theme is **Building Bridges for Change: Supporting the Mental Health of Children, Youth and Young Adults.**

Stay tuned for more details on the extended format (10:00 AM-3:30PM) and additional offerings, which can be found on Facebook [@ChildrensMentalHealthAwareness](#)

### NOMINATION PROCESS

This year, we are establishing six categories for this annual recognition. The categories' descriptions, and details on what the committee is looking for, can be found on page 3. The committee is seeking nominations of individuals, organizations, communities and schools from across New York State.

**Please ensure that your nominee is aware that, if a final awardee, we will request their presence at the event on May 7 in Albany. Some assistance may be available if travel expenses cannot be met by the awardee.**

Those making nominations should submit a complete application by **February 25** via email to Kate Provencher ([Kathryn.provencher@omh.ny.gov](mailto:Kathryn.provencher@omh.ny.gov)). The following timeline will then be honored leading up to the event:

- March 6 Committee members receive applications
- March 6-17 Committee members review applications
- March 18-22 Committee members meet to determine awardees
- March 25 Awardees are contacted.
- If you have any questions about the nominating process or event, contact:  
[Kathryn.provencher@omh.ny.gov](mailto:Kathryn.provencher@omh.ny.gov)

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## 2019 NOMINATION FORM

Please complete all fields:

1. **Date of nomination:** Click or tap to enter a date.
2. **Person making nomination:** Click or tap here to enter text.
3. **Nominator phone:** Click or tap here to enter text.
4. **Nominator email:** Click or tap here to enter text.
  
5. **In what nomination category are you making a recommendation (Select ONE only – explanation of categories in instructions):**  
 Youth/Young Adult    Family/Caregiver    Lifetime    Systems of Care Community  
 Organization or Community Group    School or School District
  
6. **Name of individual, community, organization or school being nominated:** Click or tap here to enter text.
7. **Nominee contact phone:** Click or tap here to enter text.
8. **Nominee contact email:** Click or tap here to enter text.
  
9. **Is the work the nominee does:**  professional/paid or    volunteer
10. **How long has the nominee been doing this work:** (include year start and end): Click or tap here to enter text.
11. **Geographic area nominee serves – defined by NYS OMH regions (check all that apply)**  
 Western NY    Central NY    New York City    Long Island    Hudson River    Statewide
12. **Age group that nominee predominantly works with (check all that apply):**  
 0-5 yr. olds    6-11 yr. olds    12-17 yr. olds    18-25 yr. olds
  
13. **In 500 words or less, describe how your nominee meets the indicated award category. Please be sure to include any salient examples and information that reflect the specifics of the award category (see attached) and how this nominee reflects this year's theme.**  
Click or tap here to enter text.



The deadline for nominations is February 25, 2019

Please submit nominations to Kate Provencher via email at [Kathryn.Provencher@omh.ny.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Provencher@omh.ny.gov).

All nominations will be reviewed by the interagency planning committee and notifications will be made by March 25, 2019.

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## AWARD CATEGORIES

**Youth/Young Adult:** This individual award is given annually to a youth or young adult (up to age 29) who demonstrates active and meaningful work in their organization or community, using their own lived experience. Their work focuses on youth and young adults and may have resulted in: raising awareness about mental health issues; reducing stigma; changing mental health policy or funding; and/or, developing new services or improving existing services. This work can be volunteer or paid experience.

**Family/Caregiver:** This individual award is given annually to a family member or caregiver who engages in active and meaningful work in their organization or community, using their own lived experience. Their work focuses on supporting families and caregivers and may have resulted in: raising awareness about mental health issues or the needs of families whose children have challenges and service needs; reducing stigma; changing mental health policy or funding; and/or developing new services or improving existing services. This work can be volunteer or paid experience.

**Lifetime:** This individual award is given annually to recognize lifetime commitment through professional and/or volunteer work to strengthening children, youth and families in the development, administration or delivery of mental health services to children, youth and young adults. The individual's work should exemplify the Systems of Care philosophy of family driven, youth guided, community based and culturally/linguistically competent services.

**Systems of Care Community:** This award is given annually to recognize a local System of Care that exemplifies the Systems of Care philosophy of family driven, youth guided, community based and culturally/linguistically competent services in its collaborative work. At a minimum, the work cited should include multi-system involvement such as mental health, substance use, intellectual/developmental disabilities, child welfare, education, juvenile justice, family/youth peers and other partners. This local System of Care has had impact on the mental health outcomes of children, youth and families.

**Organization or Community Group:** This award is given annually to recognize an organization or community group for a specific program, service or special project that demonstrates meeting the mental health challenges in the community which results in positive outcomes for strengthening families, involving families and is culturally/linguistically relevant.

**School:** This award is given annually to recognize a school district or individual school that is implementing services or a project that demonstrates meeting the mental health challenges in its community which results in positive outcomes for strengthening families, involving families and is culturally/linguistically relevant.