

George Vessels Honored at 2026 New Jersey Social Innovation Awards

Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services is proud to celebrate **George Vessels Jr, MSW Housing Director for Homeless Outreach Services**, who was named a **2026 Award Winner in Housing and Community Development** at the New Jersey Social Innovation Awards, hosted by the Social Innovations Journal on April 9.

George was recognized in a category honoring innovative, attainable housing models that strengthen communities. Selected from more than 250 nominees and chosen by more than 2,500 New Jersey residents, the award spotlights leaders advancing bold, community-driven solutions across the state.

His recognition reflects years of dedicated leadership supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, including those living with mental health challenges. George's work embodies Bridgeway's commitment to dignity, stability, recovery, and community integration.

"It's been a goal of mine to ensure everyone is given a fair chance at housing and being treated with dignity and respect," said **George Vessels**. "I can't do this work without the support of my leaders and teams at Bridgeway, the dedicated professionals in the community, and the law enforcement agencies who believe in this work."

Bridgeway was also honored to have **Cory Storch, President and CEO**, serve as a Co-Host of this year's event alongside respected leaders from across the region, including partners from Woods System of Care and Legacy Treatment Services.

"It was an honor to help host an event that shines a light on the innovators, collaborators, and community leaders working every day to build a more just New Jersey," said Storch. "We are especially proud to celebrate George Vessels for this well-deserved recognition and grateful to stand alongside so many partners whose work strengthens communities and helps advance Bridgeway's mission," said Cory.

The event was supported by Woods System of Care and a broad network of regional healthcare, behavioral health, and community partners, many of whom help strengthen the systems of care that support the people Bridgeway serves every day.

As Woods System of Care CEO Tine Hansen-Turton shared during the event, "In 2026, we continue to be inspired by the extraordinary individuals and organizations who are redefining how we address complex social challenges."

This year's theme, "**Achieving a More Just Society,**" celebrated the creativity, courage, and collaboration required to build a more accessible, inclusive, and connected future for all.

At Bridgeway, we are proud to see George's leadership recognized on a statewide stage and honored to stand alongside so many changemakers advancing meaningful impact across New Jersey.

[Read more](#) about the winners and honorees.

About the New Jersey Social Innovation Awards

The New Jersey Social Innovation Awards recognize social innovators, entrepreneurs, and changemakers whose work is creating lasting impact across communities. The awards celebrate leaders and organizations from the nonprofit, public, private, and academic sectors who are driving innovative solutions to society's most pressing challenges.