

Establishment of the Kansas County Public Health Leadership Award

Recommendation

Approve the establishment of the **Kansas County Public Health Leadership Award** and adopt the accompanying governance documents to guide administration of the award program.

Purpose

The award is intended to:

- Recognize County Commissioners and Boards of County Commissioners whose leadership has advanced public health and improved community well-being.
- Highlight successful partnerships between county government and local health departments.
- Elevate the visibility of local health departments within county government.
- Showcase examples of county leadership that improve the health of Kansas communities.
- Strengthen relationships between local health departments and county elected officials.

Requested Board Action

Approve:

1. Award Policy and Program Charter
2. Selection Committee Charter
3. Evaluation and Scoring Policy
4. Nomination Process and Form
5. Inaugural 2026 Award Timeline

Award Policy and Program Charter

Name

Kansas County Public Health Leadership Award

Purpose

The Kansas County Public Health Leadership Award recognizes a County Commissioner or Board of County Commissioners whose leadership has advanced public health and improved community well-being.

The award honors county leaders who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to improving the health of Kansas residents through policy development, advocacy, collaboration, innovation, or measurable community health improvement.

The award also recognizes county leaders whose partnership with their local health department has resulted in meaningful and measurable improvements in community health outcomes.

Presented annually by the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), the award highlights the essential role county leadership plays in creating healthier communities and elevates successful partnerships between local health departments and county government.

Eligibility

Eligible nominees include:

- Individual Kansas County Commissioners
- Kansas Boards of County Commissioners

Self-nominations are not permitted.

All nominations must be submitted by or endorsed by the Local Health Department Administrator serving the county.

Areas of Recognition

Nominations may recognize achievements in one or more of the following areas:

- Community Health Improvement
- Public Health Policy and Systems Change
- Public Health Advocacy and Leadership
- Collaboration and Partnership
- Public Health Capacity and Sustainability

Award Frequency and Presentation

One award shall be presented annually.

The award will be presented during the Kansas Association of Counties Annual Conference or another venue designated by the KALHD Board.

The selection committee may recommend Honorable Mention recognition when warranted.

Administration

The award program shall be administered by KALHD staff under the direction of the KALHD Board.

Selection Committee Charter

Purpose

The Selection Committee shall review nominations and recommend a recipient for the Kansas County Public Health Leadership Award.

Membership

The committee shall consist of three to five members who shall be appointed by the KALHD President. Membership may be from any of the following:

- KALHD Board Member
- Local Health Department Administrator
- Kansas Association of Counties
- Statewide Public Health Partner Representative
- A past awardee

KALHD staff will support the Committee but are not a voting member.

Responsibilities

The committee shall:

- Review nominations
- Evaluate nominations using established scoring criteria
- Discuss top-ranked nominations
- Recommend an award recipient
- Recommend any honorable mention recipients if appropriate.

Conflict of Interest

A committee member shall disclose any actual or perceived conflict of interest. Committee members shall not score or participate in discussion involving:

- Their own county
- A nominee with whom they have a direct professional reporting relationship
- A nominee with whom they have a family relationship

Recused members shall not participate in deliberations involving that nomination.

Recommendation Process

The committee shall forward one recommended recipient to the KALHD Executive Committee for final approval.

Evaluation and Scoring Policy

Guiding Principle

The purpose of this award is to recognize County Commissioners and Boards of County Commissioners whose leadership produced meaningful public health outcomes and community benefit.

Evaluation should focus on:

- Leadership
- Impact
- Outcomes
- Sustainability
- Partnership

Evaluation should not be based on:

- County size
- Budget size
- Amount of funding expended
- Political affiliation

Evaluation Criteria

1. Significance of Accomplishment

40 Points

To what extent did the nominee demonstrate leadership in addressing an important public health issue, challenge, or opportunity?

2. Evidence of Results

30 Points

What measurable or observable improvements resulted from the nominee's leadership?

3. Sustainability and Lasting Impact

20 Points

Will benefits continue beyond the initial effort through policies, systems, partnerships, or ongoing initiatives?

4. Public Health Leadership

10 Points

How effectively did the nominee champion public health within county government and the community?

Total Possible Score

100 Points

Selection Process

Phase One

Independent scoring by committee members.

Phase Two

Compilation and averaging of scores.

Phase Three

Committee discussion of top-ranked nominations.

Phase Four

Recommendation of recipient to KALHD Executive Committee.

Nomination Process

Nomination Requirements

All nominations shall include:

Nominee Information

- Name
- County
- Position
- Contact information

Nominator Information

- Name
- Organization
- Contact information

Local Health Department Certification

Certification or endorsement from the Local Health Department Administrator.

Area of Recognition

At least one selected area of recognition.

Narrative Statement

Maximum 1,500 words describing:

- Challenge or opportunity
- Leadership demonstrated
- Actions taken
- Results achieved
- Lasting impact

Outcomes and Results

Up to five documented outcomes.

Supporting Documentation

Optional.

Inaugural 2026 Implementation Timeline

Date	Activity
September 15, 2026	KALHD Board Approval
September 25, 2026	Call for Nominations Released
September 25 - October 23, 2026	Nomination Period
October 23, 2026	Nominations Due
October 26 - November 6, 2026	Committee Review and Scoring
November 9 - November 13, 2026	Selection Committee Deliberation
November 16, 2026	Winner Approved
Week of November 16, 2026	Recipient Notified
December 9, 2026	Award Presentation at KAC Annual Conference

Standard Annual Timeline Beginning in 2027

Date	Activity
May 1	Nominations Open
July 15	Nominations Due
July 16 - August 15	Review Committee Scoring
August 16 - August 31	Selection Committee Deliberation
Early September	KALHD Approval
By September 15	Recipient Notified
December	Award Presentation at KAC Annual Conference