



# 2019 Andy Hyman Award FOR ADVOCACY



“Despite the policy fluctuations, the headlines, and the ongoing political battle, health reform has already helped millions of people and will soon help millions more. We certainly have to work with our grantees to address the current and developing challenges, but we also have to keep a hopeful eye on the horizon... This is where our leadership is vital. This is where we reveal ourselves, to our grantees and to the public... This is our moment.”

– Andy Hyman (1966-2015)

## Background

The field of health philanthropy lost one of its greatest champions when Andy Hyman of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation passed away in 2015.

Andy was an avid supporter of Grantmakers In Health (GIH). He was the driving force behind several of GIH's most lauded health reform activities, including the State Grantwriting Assistance Fund, the Federal-State Implementation Program, and the Outreach and Enrollment Learning Community.

As a Team Director and Senior Program Officer at Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), Andy focused on the foundation's efforts to expand coverage and secure meaningful access to health care for all Americans. He recognized that “the promise of equal opportunity in this country is empty while we permit millions to be uninsured.” Having joined the foundation in 2006, he worked with policy and communications experts, researchers, and advocates to help state and national policymakers enact and implement policies designed to expand coverage. In addition, Andy worked with the foundation's staff to develop strategy and design programs to address violence and its impact on children and families, with a particular focus on mental health.

In the decades prior to his work at RWJF, Andy served as Director of Government Relations and Legislative Counsel for the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Deputy Director and then Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and Special Assistant to the General Counsel at HHS.

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Andy was a smart, passionate, and innovative grantmaker, with a generous spirit and a great laugh. He asked hard questions, expected honest answers, and never shied away from difficult challenges. Those who knew and worked with him were touched by his humility and his dedication to social justice.

## The Award

First presented by Grantmakers In Health in 2017, the Andy Hyman Award for Advocacy recognizes a nonprofit or public sector champion who:

- Exhibits persistence, courage, and determination in the field of health advocacy.
- Embodies Andy's commitment to principled action and passionate leadership that advances social change.
- Demonstrates a dedication to making progress in policy and practice despite challenging political environments.
- Inspires philanthropy to support grantees who fight for social justice and meaningful access to health care for all Americans.
- Advances an innovative, compelling strategic vision that is focused on achieving effective results with a broad impact.
- Embraces an attitude of optimism, good humor, and humility in their work.

The award carries a \$5,000 honorarium. This award is made possible through the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

## Eligibility

Only GIH Funding Partners may nominate current or former grantees for this award using the nomination process described below. The nominee must be an individual; organizations cannot be nominated for the award. Funding Partners can nominate grantees for their work in the nonprofit or public sectors. Foundation staff and trustees are not eligible to be nominated for this award. This is not a lifetime achievement award; awardees can be at any stage in their career and at any position within their organization. The recipient must be available to participate in the award presentation on June 14, 2019 during the GIH Annual Conference on Health Philanthropy in Seattle, Washington.

## The Nomination Process

Nominators should submit:

- A nomination form, which provides complete contact information for the nominee, the nominator, and two individuals from an entity other than the nominator's foundation, who support the nomination and are willing to be contacted by the selection committee. The nomination form is available online.
- A nominating letter, which describes how the nominee meets the criteria for this award (see Award Criteria) and summarizes the nominee's achievements and relevant qualities. The letter should not exceed three single-spaced, typed pages. The extent to which the letter makes a succinct case for the candidate is more important than the letter's length.



- No more than two attachments that illustrate the nominee's achievements, which may include items authored by the nominee, materials produced under the nominee's leadership, and media articles about the nominee or their work.

The selection committee seeks candidates who represent the diversity of the field across a variety of dimensions, including foundation size, foundation type, gender, geographic location, life experience, political ideology, professional skills, and race and ethnicity. The selection process is quite competitive, therefore the selection committee encourages the renomination of previous candidates.

Please email the nomination letter and any attachments to Ann McMillan, Program Director, at [amcmillan@gih.org](mailto:amcmillan@gih.org), and complete the required online [form](#).

**Nominations must be received by Friday, December 7, 2018.**

## Award Criteria

Nominators are encouraged to address the following questions in their submission:

- Describe the nominee's achievements and how they have fought for social justice and improved health for all Americans. How has this individual challenged the status quo? In what ways have they demonstrated courage and persistence in their work?
- Describe the nominee's commitment to principled action and passionate leadership. How has this individual demonstrated these qualities within their own organization or community? How have they shown these qualities within the broader field of health advocacy?
- How has the nominee worked effectively across policy sectors and made connections that make a meaningful difference in overcoming resistance in politically polarized situations? Describe this individual's willingness and ability to 'pick the right fight' by balancing their passion with a practical approach.
- Some grantees help foundations to do their work differently. They encourage funding for a cause and they understand how foundations can influence the course of an issue. Describe how this nominee has inspired philanthropy.
- In what way has the nominee advanced an innovative, compelling strategic vision for their advocacy work, the persistence to carry it out, and the ability to bring others along with them? What distinguishes this nominee's commitment to achieving results and measurable outcomes?
- Describe how the nominee's personality has contributed to their success. How has this individual embraced optimism, good humor, and humility in their work?

## The Selection Process

The recipient of the award is selected by a committee chosen by GIH, which will include current and former grantmakers from GIH Funding Partner organizations. A member of the GIH board of directors chairs the committee but does not have a vote. The committee reviews all nominations and chooses a single awardee. The decisions of the committee are final and not subject to review by the GIH board, staff, or its Funding Partners. The award recipient and nominators will be notified of the committee's decision by March 2019. The award will be presented during the 2019 GIH Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington.