



# 2026 Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award Nomination Form

## ABOUT

Each year, the National Center for Healthcare Leadership (NCHL) accepts nominations for the **Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award**. This prestigious award recognizes a healthcare leader whose commitment, values, and contributions have significantly improved public health through exemplary leadership and organizational excellence.

The 2026 NCHL Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award marks the 21st anniversary of this distinguished honor. The award will be presented to an individual who has made lasting and meaningful leadership contributions to the healthcare field. The recipient will be celebrated at NCHL's 21st Anniversary Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award Event on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, in Chicago.

Please use this nomination form to demonstrate how the nominee fulfills the criteria for the Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award. Provide specific examples that describe this nominee's leadership breadth and acumen, supported by measurable outcomes, scope of influence, and impact.

Attachments such as CVs, articles, certificates, or other supporting documents may be included with the nomination form. However, please note that the Selection Committee will primarily evaluate nominees based on the narrative provided when ranking and scoring candidates.

## AWARD NOMINATION CRITERIA

1. **Innovation & Impact:** Demonstrates significant innovation in transforming care delivery to improve value, safety, or patient experience; reducing health disparities and addressing social determinants of health; advancing access and equity for underserved and historically marginalized communities; contributing to research or public policy that moves the field forward; fostering a culture of health and wellness; or leveraging technological solutions to enhance healthcare value.
2. **Creating High-Performing & Inclusive Teams:** Builds and leads high-performing, inclusive teams that deliver measurable and sustained results in organizational performance, health and wellness, community health status, quality, and value, with clear, differentiated impact across all communities served, including those most vulnerable, while advancing equity and long-term system performance.

3. **Leadership & Mentorship:** Demonstrates strong leadership competencies by serving as a mentor and role model to current and future generations of leaders, focusing on employee and provider engagement to transform care and improve organizational performance, and advancing the field through evidence-informed leadership best practices.
4. **Collaborative Leadership:** Demonstrates the ability to lead across organizational and professional boundaries to bring about transformation within communities, regions, and beyond.
5. **Industry Influence & Recognition:** Is recognized and respected in the field and is sought out to provide perspective, guidance, and direction through national forums, policymaking, and other strategic alliances to shape the industry.

## **ELIGIBILITY & NOMINATION PROCESS**

1. Nominees may come from any sector, including healthcare delivery, community health, public health, insurance, suppliers, public policy, government, professional/trade associations, research, and academia. They must be actively engaged in the field and have a broad national influence.
2. Self-nominations are not eligible.
3. Nominees do not need to be affiliated with an NCHL member organization.

## **SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

Nominations are due on **Friday, May 29, 2026**, at 11:59 PM PST. Only online submissions will be accepted.

## **SUBMISSION PORTAL**

Follow this link to submit a nomination:

<http://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/6194b0ac-7ada-4106-9272-94207864fbf6>

## **AWARD NOTIFICATION**

Nominators will be notified about the status of their submission by July 15, 2026.

## **QUESTIONS**

Questions about the nomination form or process can be directed to [info@nchl.org](mailto:info@nchl.org).

Copies of prior award recipients' nominations are also available upon request at [info@nchl.org](mailto:info@nchl.org).

## SUBMISSION PREVIEW

Full Name of the Person You are Nominating: \_\_\_\_\_

### Nominator(s) Details

We recommend that one nominator be internal to the nominee's organization and one nominator be external to the nominee's organization.

#### Nominator #1:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Nominator #2:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### More About the Nominee

Nominee's Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee's Organization/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Full Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Industry Sector (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Healthcare Provider / Delivery
- ☐ Community Health / Public Health
- ☐ Public Policy / Think Tank
- ☐ Research / Academic Institution
- ☐ Professional / Trade Association
- ☐ Supplier / Vendor
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Payor / Insurer
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Education (schools / degrees): \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Honors and Awards: \_\_\_\_\_

Major National Leadership Positions, Societies, and Boards: \_\_\_\_\_

Over the years, what has been the nominee's level of engagement in NCHL? \_\_\_\_\_

## NOMINEE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*Please note each of the below prompts has a max character limit of 4,000*

1. **Nominee's Most Significant Contribution to Healthcare Leadership** *(Describe the nominee's most impactful leadership achievement and how it has influenced the healthcare field.)*

## NOMINEE'S CONTRIBUTIONS BY CRITERIA

*Please note each of the below prompts has a max character limit of 4,000*

*Describe the nominee's contributions relative to each criterion:*

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