

OJFSDA ANNUAL OUTSTANDING CDJFS DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION INFORMATION

The Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association is comprised of our members' strengths and accomplishments. To fully appreciate and acknowledge the valuable contributions of our members to the JFS system, we believe it's important to provide appropriate recognition. The Director of the Year annual award serves as a meaningful way to do so. Please review the nomination criteria below and consider nominating a CDJFS Director whose commitment to the profession is worthy of recognition.

Nomination Process:

Current elected OJFSDA officers and former award recipients comprise the Selection Committee tasked with reviewing all nominations and choosing one award recipient. While many directors deserve this award, the committee works diligently to select the individual of the highest professional caliber. The recipient will be notified by OJFSDA and asked to be present at the December General Session to receive the award. Those nominated but not chosen may be nominated again in subsequent years.

- ✓ **Nominations must be submitted by November 2, 2026**, via the online form [here](#). Late submissions will **not** be accepted.
- ✓ Nominations **must** be made by at least one current CDJFS Director.
- ✓ [Current OJFSDA officers](#) are **not** eligible for nomination.
- ✓ Multiple nominations will be accepted, but volume of nominations **does not** guarantee that a nominee will receive the award.
- ✓ Nominees **do not** have to be deeply involved in Association activities to be selected if the sum of their professional contributions outweigh other nominee's contributions. However, if candidates appear equally deserving, preference will be given to the candidate who has exhibited a strong commitment to OJFSDA.
- ✓ Nominations **must** include as much detail as possible and personal appraisals are factored into the selection process (please carefully consider the review criteria when preparing your nomination).
- ✓ Self-submitted or unsigned nominations will **not** be accepted.

Previous recipients include:

2025 Terri Burns	2013 Eileen Dray-Bardon
2024 Richard Owens	2012 Randy Cochrane
2023 Tammy Moore Morton	2011 Robert Gallagher
2022 Cheryl Boley	2010 Paulette Stephens
2021 Chris Shank	2009 John D. Fisher
2020 Tim McCartney	2008 Deb Ortiz-Flores
2019 Beth Rubin	2007 Jody Walker
2018 Kathy Oliver	2006 Dan Willoby
2017 Kate Offenberger	2005 Bob Suver
2016 Susan Bailey-Evans	2004 Lynn Shock
2015 Dave Wigent	2003 Dannetta Graves
2014 Roxane Somerlot	2002 Mike Paxton

Review Criteria:

- ✓ Special problem-solving accomplishments in their county. (Can range from making vast improvements in an area that had been very problematic, solving specialized or tough problems, tackling serious union issues, staffing challenges, etc.)
- ✓ National, state, and/or county recognitions which have had a significant impact on job and family services or resulted in press recognitions (i.e. public radio, newspaper coverage, television interviews, etc.).
- ✓ Publications, articles, newspaper editorials (please compile and upload as one attachment to the online nomination form).
- ✓ Special assistance to other counties and/or fellow directors.
- ✓ Collaborative efforts for better services delivery, including shared services.
- ✓ Professional affiliations and membership in national, state, and/or local groups.
- ✓ Professional involvement in job and family services-related committees, taskforces, or groups at the national, state, and/or local levels.
- ✓ Service in chairperson positions, special appointments, officer positions, or other leadership positions in job and family services related projects, committees, etc.
- ✓ Leadership in special projects and piloting of efforts that will result in a better product for all counties.
- ✓ Innovative programs, projects, and use of technology.
- ✓ OJFSDA involvement and commitment.
- ✓ Other awards and recognitions.
- ✓ Other personal or professional characteristics (i.e. academic background, teaching, personality strengths, communication style, workshop training, etc.), which contribute to outstanding performance and character.

Note: We recognize that an individual nomination may not address all of the criteria listed above. If you feel you do not know enough about the nominee's background to attest to some of the items on the above list, you may wish to talk to other people who have worked closely with the individual to obtain this information. Nominations signed by more than one individual are encouraged. All nominations will be given serious consideration if the narrative is sincere and personal, even if certain background information is not included.