

NEBRASKA HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START 2021-22 AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Nominations/applications are now being accepted for the **2021-22 NeHSA Awards & Scholarships**. Please take time to recognize the outstanding work and partnerships that help demonstrate the Head Start advantage in Nebraska.

Completed submissions are due to NeHSA by February 1, 2022. Nominees and recipients will be contacted by March 1, 2022.

Recipients will then compete for Regional Awards & Scholarships presented at the 2022 R7HSA Leadership Conference (date TBD).

Additional details:

- State award and scholarship recipients' regional nominations are due to R7HSA by March 1, 2022. Regional winners will be contacted by May 1, 2022 and invited to be recognized at the R7HSA Leadership Conference.
- NeHSA will assign presenters to present regional awards to Nebraska recipients at the R7HSA Leadership Conference and assist presenters with script preparation (4-6 sentences).
- The sequence of award presentations at the R7HSA conference will follow the list shown on the right. Each award presenter directly follows the previous presenter.
- R7HSA will provide the tangible awards presented at the conference, and assistance handing out awards on stage.
- R7HSA may integrate Sponsors into the awards presentations per a decision by the R7HSA Partnership Committee to offer award and scholarship sponsorship opportunities.

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS:

- **HEAD START ALUMNI
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR***
- **HEAD START PARENT
POST SECONDARY EDUCATION***
- **HEAD START STAFF
HIGHER EDUCATION***

** Each Scholarship is for \$750. Recipients will compete for additional \$1,000 Regional Scholarships presented at the 2022 R7HSA Leadership Conference (date TBD).*

AWARDS:

- **STATE CHILDREN'S CHAMPION**
State-level award only
- **ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**
- **TEACHER OF THE YEAR**
- **SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR**
- **FAMILY LEADER OF THE YEAR**
- **FAMILY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR**
- **EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE**
- **TOM MAYER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**
Regional-level award only

The National Head Start Association accepts nominations for NHTA awards at nhsa.org/scholarships-and-awards.

Applications are accepted from June 1st — October 15th annually.
NHTA Awards and Scholarships are not part of the state and regional awards process.

DUE DATE FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Send completed nomination forms to:

DEB ROSS

Nebraska Head Start Association
402.462.4187 | dross@hshn.org



NEBRASKA HEAD START ALUMNI - HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA:

1. The nominee must have attended Head Start for one or more years.
2. The nominee must be scheduled to graduate from high school, be pursuing a post-secondary education, and submit name of institution of higher education that they are enrolled in or have the desire to attend. These funds may be applied to the documented cost of tuition and/or books.
3. Candidate must submit **two letters of reference**. (20 points)
 - Letter of reference from someone who knows the candidate as a student (school personnel preferred).
 - Letter of reference from someone who knows the candidate as a community volunteer.

Applications that do not include two references will not be considered for this scholarship.

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Email:

Candidate's Phone Number:

Head Start / Early Head Start Agency attended:

Current High School:

Future Higher Learning Institution:

Name, Title, and Email of Person Submitting Application:

1. Please share key details about candidate and family connection to Head Start and current educational environment. (20 points)
2. Describe candidate's volunteer contributions to Head Start, Early Head Start, or the community. (30 points).
3. Provide a description of candidate's educational and professional goals. (30 points)

If more space is needed, please provide additional comments in a separate document.

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Deb Ross, Nebraska Head Start Association, dross@hshn.org. Questions? Call 402.462.4187



NEBRASKA HEAD START STAFF – HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA:

1. Candidate must be currently employed in Head Start / Early Head Start for one or more years.
2. Candidate must be a high school graduate and pursuing a post-secondary education.
Proof of acceptance or enrollment in an institution of higher learning whose accreditation is recognized by the US Department of Education is required. These funds may be applied to the documented cost of tuition and/or books.
3. Candidate must submit **two letters of reference**. (20 points)
 - Letter of reference from someone who knows the candidate as a student (school personnel preferred).
 - Letter of reference from someone who knows the candidate as a staff member in the Head Start or Early Head Start program.

Applications that do not include two references will not be considered for this scholarship.

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Email:

Candidate's Phone Number:

Agency Phone Number:

Head Start / Early Head Start Agency:

Agency Address:

Name, Title, and Email of Person Submitting Application:

1. List candidate's current role and overall length of service in Head Start/Early Head Start. (10 points)
2. List candidate's credentials or special training/qualifications. (10 points)
3. Describe candidate's unique contributions to the Head Start or Early Head Start program or community. (30 points)
4. Provide a description of candidate's educational and professional goals. (30 points)

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NEBRASKA HEAD START **STATE CHILDREN'S CHAMPION AWARD**

AWARD DESCRIPTION: The State Children's Champion Award recognition was initiated in 2006 by the R7HSA Partnership Committee in an effort to recognize individuals who make valuable contributions to the lives of children and families across their state. The award is designed to recognize and honor individuals who "stand out" for leadership, commitment and service and who ultimately make a difference. This award celebrates the important contributions of an individual or organization that serves as a Champion to Head Start and Early Head Start children and families.

***Please submit TWO letters of reference with your nomination.** (20 points)

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Email:

Organization Name:

Agency Telephone Number:

Name, Title, and Email of Person Submitting Application:

1. List candidate's credentials or special training/qualifications, and their current role in their organization. (20 points)

2. Describe candidate's special contributions to the success of Head Start/Early Head Start in your state. (30 points)

3. Describe three traits about the candidate that "stand-out" and have fostered the success of their efforts on behalf of Head Start/Early Head Start in your state. (30 points)

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NEBRASKA HEAD START **ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**

AWARD DESCRIPTION: This award celebrates the important contributions of staff who oversee the Executive Director or Assistant Director levels of administrative work in a Head Start or Early Head Start programs.

AWARD RECIPIENT: The successful candidate will be a current employee of a Head Start/Early Head Start program in Nebraska demonstrating exceptional leadership qualities in their role. The application shall be submitted by the program and provide information about special contributions this individual has made within their program.

***Please submit TWO letters of reference with your nomination.** (20 points)

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Email:

Agency Name:

Agency Telephone Number:

Name, Title, and Email of Person Submitting Application:

1. List the candidate's credentials or special training/qualifications. (10 points)
2. Provide the candidate's current role and length of service in your program or Head Start/Early Head Start in general. (10 points)
3. Describe candidate's special contributions to the success of your local program. (30 points)
4. Describe three traits about the candidate that "stand-out" and have fostered their success and that of your program. (30 points)

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NEBRASKA HEAD START **TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

AWARD DESCRIPTION: This award recognizes all individuals that are involved in the education components of a Head Start/ Early Head Start program including classroom lead and associate teachers, home visiting staff and instructional mentors.

AWARD RECIPIENT: The successful candidate will have 5+ years in a Nebraska program serving as a classroom lead teacher, associate teacher, home visitor or instructional mentor. The application shall be submitted by the program and provide information about special contributions this individual has made working in their program.

***Please submit TWO letters of reference with your nomination.** (20 points)

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Email:

Agency Name:

Agency Telephone Number:

Name, Title, and Email of Person Submitting Application:

1. List the candidate's credentials or special training/qualifications. (10 points)
2. Provide the candidate's length of service in your program or Head Start/Early Head Start in general. (10 points)
3. Describe candidate's significant contributions to your program that have provided meaningful and positive impact on children and families served by Head Start/Early Head Start. (30 points)
4. Describe three traits about the candidate that "stand-out" and have fostered their success and that of your program. (30 points)

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NEBRASKA HEAD START **SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR**

AWARD DESCRIPTION: This award celebrates the important contributions of staff who work in administration, management, facilities, food service, transportation, health, disabilities and social services.

AWARD RECIPIENT: The successful candidate will be a current employee of a Head Start/Early Head Start program in Nebraska serving in one of the areas of: management, facilities, food service, transportation, health, disabilities and social services. The application shall be submitted by the program and provide information about special contributions this individual has made in their program. ***Please submit TWO letters of reference with your nomination.** (20 points)

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Email:

Agency Name:

Agency Telephone Number:

Name, Title, and Email of Person Submitting Application:

1. List the candidate's credentials or special training/qualifications. (10 points)
2. Provide the candidate's current role and length of service in your program or Head Start/Early Head Start in general. (10 points)
3. Describe candidate's special contributions to the success of your local program. (30 points)
4. Describe three traits about the candidate that "stand-out" and have fostered their success and that of your program. (30 points)

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NEBRASKA HEAD START **FAMILY LEADER OF THE YEAR**

AWARD DESCRIPTION: This award recognizes all individuals that are leaders in their Head Start/Early Head Start family and have made special contributions to be a leader for their family and in their local Head Start/Early Head Start program or community.

AWARD RECIPIENT: The successful candidate will be a current Head Start/Early Head Start parent, grandparent or family leader who has been an example as a leader in their family and their local program. The application shall be submitted by the program and provide information about special contributions this individual has had on behalf of their family and within their program.

***Please submit TWO letters of reference with your nomination.** (20 points)

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Email:

Agency Name:

Agency Telephone Number:

Name, Title, and Email of Person Submitting Application:

1. Describe candidate's special contributions that support their family's involvement in the local program. (20 points)

2. List candidate's accomplishments that your program would like to recognize. (20 points)

3. List candidate's personal goals and describe how they have taken steps to work towards those goals to benefit their family. (20 points)

4. Describe three traits about the candidate that "stand-out" and have fostered their success. (20 points)

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NEBRASKA HEAD START **FAMILY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR**

AWARD DESCRIPTION: Advocacy comes in many forms and this award aims to recognize the outstanding achievements of those that serve Head Start/Early Head Start families through a home visitation model of service.

AWARD RECIPIENT: The successful candidate will be a current Head Start/Early Head Start employee who has proven to be a true family advocate in their home visitation role. The application shall be submitted by the program and provide information about special contributions this individual has made in their program.

****Please submit TWO letters of reference with your nomination.*** (20 points)

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Email:

Agency Name:

Agency Telephone Number:

Name, Title, and Email of Person Submitting Application:

1. List candidates credentials or special training/qualifications. (10 points)

2. List candidate's special contributions to the support of Head Start families in their local program. (20 points)

3. Describe candidate's accomplishments that your program would like to recognize. (30 points)

4. Describe three traits about the candidate that "stand-out" and have fostered their success and that of the families they serve. (20 points)

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NEBRASKA HEAD START **EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

AWARD DESCRIPTION: This award celebrates an individual's or organization's significant achievement through innovative community service to Head Start and Early Head Start. The nominee for this award should have excelled in addressing issues of poverty, early education or community health.

AWARD RECIPIENT: Nominee must be an individual or organization that made an innovative contribution of time and effort that has made a positive impact upon children, families, and/or communities.

***Please submit TWO letters of reference with your nomination.** (20 points)

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Email:

Agency Name:

Agency Telephone Number:

Name, Title, and Email of Person Submitting Application:

1. Describe candidate's specific contributions to Head Start or Early Head Start, and list names of key leaders of the effort. (30 points)

2. Describe the outcomes or impact of the effort on vulnerable children and families, that are unique and/or go beyond Head Start Program Performance Standards. (30 points)

3. Describe three traits that "stand-out" about this organization and its leaders that have fostered their success and that of the families they serve. (20 points)

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REGION VII TOM MAYER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

ABOUT THE TOM MAYER AWARD

Thomas K. Mayer contributed to the well-being of children and families throughout his 35 year career, beginning with the Peace Corps in the 1960's and continuing through his retirement in 2004. Tom was a committed leader serving as the Region VII Director of the Office of Community Operations, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Tom's living legacy includes a commitment to all in the area of advancing early care and education and specifically to Head Start programs in the ongoing effort to achieve and maintain high-quality service delivery. During his thirty-plus years with ACF, Mr. Mayer led the development of lasting federal, state, and local partnerships that continue to serve in the expansion of children and families receiving Head Start/Early Head Start services across Region VII.

Individuals nominated for this prestigious award should have demonstrated flexibility in their career and have documented experiences across the Head Start Program. Consideration will be given to individuals who made a long-term state or regional impact, as well as those who possess key characteristics of good leadership. Leadership examples include articulating a clear vision regarding a system for early care and education, the highest degree of integrity in their representation of Head Start, and demonstrated ability to build strong relationships and partnerships that serve to further the comprehensive nature of Head Start services to children and families. In addition, the nominee should have a demonstrated compassion and commitment to future Head Start program improvement and quality on a continuing basis.

CRITERIA (30 points)

(Approx. 300 words)

- List the nominee's length of service and professional affiliations in or outside of Head Start. *15-years experience in service to children and families is required*
- Demonstrate a proven influence over state/regional procedures or policies.
- Describe some specific partnerships that have been developed and how that has impacted services on the state/regional level.
- Describe the nominee's variety of experience supporting children and families.

NARRATIVE (30 points)

(Approx. 300 words)

- Describe leadership roles and qualities the nominee possesses.
- Provide examples of how the nominee personifies excellence.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT (40 points)

(one from each of the following categories)

- A Parent
- Head Start Staff
- Head Start Director
- Community Member

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PAST WINNERS

2004	Vic Burton, ACF
2005	Linda Broyles, KS
2006	Carolyn Weinhold, KS
2007	Dr. Kathy Thornburg, MO
2008	Korey Hensley, KS
2009	Kay Mitchell, KS
2010	Deb Ross, NE
2011	Lynda Bitner, ACF
2012	Mary Baskett, KS
2013	Rhodanne Schiller, MO
2014	Pamala La Frenz, MO
2015	Kim Young-Kent, IA
2016	Ann Johnson, ACF
2017	Stacey Wright, MO
2018	Sue Obermiller, NE
2019	Cindy Davis, IA
2020	N/A
2021	Linda Bleything, MO



REGION VII TOM MAYER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

NOMINEE:

Name _____ Title _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Agency Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PERSON SUBMITTING NOMINATION:

Name _____ Title _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Agency Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CRITERIA: (30 points)

NARRATIVE: (30 points)

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS *(please check each)*

Criteria (Approx. 300 words)

Four Letters of Support: (40 points)

Narrative (Approx. 300 words)

Parent

Head Start Director

Head Start Staff

Community Member

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