

## Carolyn Boone Lewis Equity of Care Awards

Application Opens to Members: July 22, 2024

Application Deadline: October 1, 2024

Notification of Awards: May 2025

### Background & Directions

The American Hospital Association's (AHA) Institute for Diversity and Health Equity (IFDHE) is pleased to announce a revision to the criteria for the prestigious **Carolyn Boone Lewis Equity of Care Award**.

To provide more equitable opportunities for various types of hospitals and health systems to be recognized for advancing health equity, IFDHE has redesigned the awards so that hospitals and health systems can apply to the category that best represents their progress on the health equity journey. The categories are described below. **(1) the Transforming Award, (2) the Emerging Award, and (3) the Small/Rural Hospital Excellence Award.**

The Equity of Care Award: **Transforming** - Recognizes a hospital system that is implementing strategies to influence equity in the surrounding community ecosystem.

The Equity of Care Award: **Emerging** – Recognizes a hospital that is leveraging the Health Equity Roadmap resources to dismantle structural barriers in their care delivery system and the communities they serve.

The Equity of Care Award: **Small/Rural Hospital Excellence** – recognizes a hospital or system that has demonstrated excellence in advancing health equity in rural or small communities.

### In order to apply for an award, a hospital or health system:

- 1) must be an AHA member in good standing, and
- 2) must have registered for the [Health Equity Roadmap](#) and completed the [Health Equity Transformation Assessment](#) by the time of application.

### To apply for an award:

1. Applicants will choose one (1) award category that best describes their organization.
2. Applicants will **submit information on their progress for all 6 levers of transformation** (see detailed information on the six levers on [www.equity.aha.org](http://www.equity.aha.org)).
3. Applicants will have the opportunity to submit information for an additional 'Innovation' category. This category demonstrates how the organization is using innovation to transform health equity. These initiatives should showcase how organizations are going above and beyond to design health equity/DEI initiatives tailored to meet the specialized needs of the patients/community.

***Please note:*** The AHA recognizes that organizations are in different places in their journey towards advancing health equity. As such, the information provided for each lever may vary in detail and implementation. We encourage you to provide information that demonstrates your progress and/or plans towards your goals for each lever of transformation.

### Factors to Consider

It is important for applications to highlight the following:

1. The *quantifiable impact* that your diversity, inclusion, and health equity work has made in your hospital, health care system and in the communities you serve. The review committee values applications that especially **highlight outcomes, metrics**, descriptions of the **results of success, and the impact to equity for patients and communities**.
2. Describe how the work in health equity and DEI has been integrated into the organization's business strategy and plans.
3. Clearly identify why your organization and community are more equitable because of the work and strategies enacted.

The 'Innovation' category is your opportunity to demonstrate any health equity efforts that were not captured by the 6 levers of transformation. Applicants should share something new and exciting the organization is progressing towards and/or has achieved, as well as learnings from the process.

**Responses to each question are limited to 500 words.** We encourage applicants to submit supplemental materials, such as dashboards and scorecards. Brief reports, no longer than ten pages in length, may also be submitted. Supplemental documents must be limited to **20** total pages. All supplemental materials should be uploaded with this online application by **Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

### Submission Deadline:

Please submit your online application and supplements by **Tuesday, October 1, 2024**, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Questions can be directed to [equityofcare@aha.org](mailto:equityofcare@aha.org).

**AHA Health Equity Roadmap**  
**Levers of Transformation and Innovation**

The Six Levers of Transformation						
Culturally Appropriate Care	Equitable and Inclusive Organizational Policy	Collection and Use of Data	Diverse Representation in Leadership and Governance	Community Collaboration for Solutions	Systemic and Shared Accountability	Innovation
Practicing cultural humility and activities that improve culturally appropriate care, such as language access and health literacy.	Applying a DEI lens to organizational policies and supporting an equitable and inclusive climate and culture.	Using quantitative and qualitative data to inform, design, and evaluate improvement strategies.	Creating pathways that lead to diversifying leadership ranks to reflect the populations and communities served.	Advancing health equity and fostering healthy communities by investing in strong hospital-community partnerships.	Creating infrastructure to maintain accountability to sustain DEI work across departments and service lines.	Applicants have an opportunity to demonstrate how they have created and/or revised policies, practices, and/or initiatives to advance equity in their system and community.

\*1. Please provide your organization's contact information.

- o Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_
- o City and State \_\_\_\_\_
- o Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_
- o Title \_\_\_\_\_
- o Email \_\_\_\_\_
- o Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\*2. Has your hospital or health system applied for the EOC Award in previous years?

- o Yes
- o No

\*If yes, which years? \_\_\_\_\_

\*3. Please indicate the award for which you are applying.

- o The Transforming Award
- o The Emerging Award
- o The Small/Rural Hospital Excellence Award

\*4. What is the total number of licensed beds in your hospital/health system?

\*5. How many hospitals are part of your health system?

\*6. What is the geographical footprint of your organization?

\*7. What was your total operating revenue in the last fiscal year?

### **Lever 1: Culturally Appropriate Patient Care**

Please describe your organization's efforts in supporting culturally appropriate patient care. When describing programs and progress, please ensure that the outcomes are clearly identified. If obstacles have been encountered in the process, articulate how the organization overcame them and specify the outcome and achievement.

*Please limit responses to 500 words.*

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### **Lever 2: Equitable and Inclusive Organizational Policies**

Please share your organization's progress in creating a climate and culture that supports equity and ensuring your workforce reflects the patient population. Applicants are encouraged to provide promising practices and examples that include measurable and actionable results. If implementation programs/policies are not already in place, applicants should include information on future plans to address this lever.

*Please limit responses to 500 words.*

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**Lever 3: Collection and Use of Data to Drive Action**

Please share your organization's results or metrics on collecting, validating and utilizing race, ethnicity and language preference data along with other socio-demographic characteristics to address disparities, attend to patients' social needs, and enhance patient quality, safety and satisfaction outcomes for diverse populations.

*Please limit responses to 500 words.*

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**Lever 4: Diverse Representation in Leadership and Governance**

Please describe how your organization has successfully improved leadership diversity and inclusion within health management positions, including strategies for promoting diversity and inclusion and pipeline development. Also, describe how governance facilitates and promotes equity to contribute to your organization's progress in advancing diversity and inclusion at all levels of decision-making.

*Please limit responses to 500 words.*

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**Lever 5: Community Collaboration for Solutions**

Please describe how your organization engages with the local community on health equity initiatives, including forming partnerships, implementing innovative engagement approaches, and involving the community in their care to overcome barriers and improve health outcomes.

*Please limit responses to 500 words.*

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**Lever 6: Systemic and Shared Accountability**

Please describe your organization’s efforts to create the infrastructure to maintain accountability to sustain diversity, equity, and inclusion work across departments and service lines.

*Please limit responses to 500 words.*

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**Innovation**

The 'Innovation' category is your opportunity to show any health equity efforts not captured by the six levers of transformation. Applicants should share something new and exciting the organization is progressing towards and/or has achieved, as well as learnings from the process. This is your opportunity to show how your organization is going above and beyond to advance health equity for the patients you serve.

*Please limit responses to 500 words.*

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We encourage applicants to submit supplemental materials that would enhance your organization's demonstration of health equity initiatives and innovation, such as dashboards and score cards. Please limit supplemental materials to **five** submissions in total.