

**Indian Health Service
National Director's Awards**

GENERAL CRITERIA

All employees are eligible for recognition, whether as part of a team or for an individual achievement. The Director's award recognizes service significantly advancing the Agency's mission and goals through enhancements supporting our priorities. Indian Health Service priorities include renewing and strengthening Tribal partnerships; bringing reform to the IHS; improving quality and access to care for IHS patients; and ensuring transparency, accountability, fairness, and inclusion.

Nominations should describe contributions, including exceptional initiative and leadership in carrying out projects to improve program operations; unusual acts of competence, compassion, or heroism; outstanding contributions to a committee or task force addressing IHS-wide policies, procedures, or operations; outstanding efforts in applying technical or clerical support skills to accomplish the IHS mission; skill and leadership in administration, knowledge dissemination, technology transfer, or skill building.

Nominations should also highlight displays of management ability, proficiency, and customer service performed in such a manner that the team and/or employee performed significantly above those with similar duties, and that the results of these efforts were distinctly beneficial to the Agency. In all cases, performance should clearly exceed expectations.

While individual nominations are accepted, the Director's Award also seeks to encourage recognition of team work. Teams may consist of employees from the same organization or from a number of different organizations. Tribal employees and contractors are eligible for non-monetary recognition. Special recognition opportunities include Tribal leadership/Partnership; Public Health Leadership; University/Educational Partnership; Federal Agency Partnership; Organizational Partnership; National Council Leadership.

Nominations are due by April 10, 2012, and should be sent to Ms. Verly Fairbanks at: verly.fairbanks@ihs.gov. She can also be reached at 301-443-6520.

NOMINATION FORMAT

Citation (Award Book Write-up)

The citation should specify, in 25 words or less, the service or achievement for which the nomination is being made.

Justification (Basis for Nomination)

Award justification should describe the accomplishment(s) supporting team/individual merit for recognition by the Director and IHS. In addition to value additions within IHS priority opportunities, justification should also highlight examples of collaboration, accountability, partnership, citizen-centered customer service, end-outcomes, and other value-adding endeavors. Nominations should not exceed 250 words.