



Celebrating Leadership and New Ideas for Inclusive Communities

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) created these awards to honor people and groups who help build communities where everyone belongs. These awards recognize strong leadership, advocacy, and actions that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families.

Award Categories

- Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award
- Elizabeth Boggs Family Member Advocate Award
- Lifetime Achievement Advocacy Award
- Distinguished DD Systems Change Award
- Access Above & Beyond Award
- Exceptional Policymaker Award
- Multi-Media Award
- Inclusive Education Award
- The Daniel J. Keating Leadership Award

Important Dates

Application Deadline

April 30, 2026

Notification Date

On or before May 25, 2026

Awards Luncheon

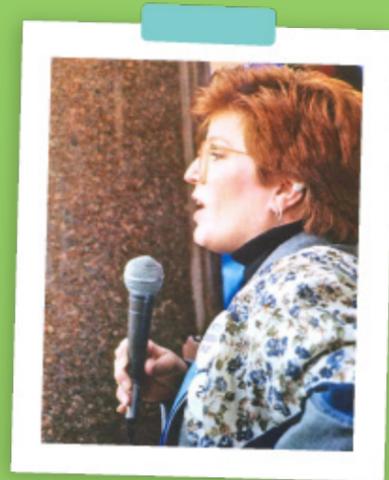
September 30, 2026

Instructions

1. Complete the Nomination Entry Form.
2. Include the required additional information for the award category.
3. Submit everything by April 30, 2026.
4. You may submit only one nomination per category. The form is also available at www.njcdd.org.



Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award



This award honors a self-advocate who speaks up for themselves and others and makes a difference.

Nominees must:

- Be a self-advocate leader.
- Take action at the local, county, state, or federal level.
- Help improve the lives of people with I/DD and their families.
- Go “above and beyond” what is expected.
- Involvement in community service or volunteer work is welcome, but not required.

Additional Information Needed for this Award

Please describe:

1. How the nominee has spoken up and taken action on the local, county, state, or federal level.
2. How they have shown leadership and creativity while advocating for individuals and families.
3. How they have shown kindness, honesty, and strong values.
4. Their volunteer work or community service.



Elizabeth Boggs Family Member Advocate Award



This award honors a family member who has worked hard to improve the lives of people with I/DD.

Nominees must:

- Be a family member of a person with I/DD.
- Lead or support advocacy work on the local, county, state, or federal level.
- Go “above and beyond” what is expected.
- Help improve areas such as:
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Transportation
 - Housing
 - Other related areas
- Involvement in community service or volunteer work is welcome, but not required.

Additional Information Needed for this Award

Please describe:

1. The nominee’s advocacy work in at least one of the listed area(s) on the local, county, state, or federal level.
2. How they have shown leadership and creativity while advocating for individuals and families.
3. How they have shown kindness, honesty, and strong values.
4. Their volunteer work or community service.



Lifetime Achievement Advocacy Award

This is NJCDD's highest honor. It recognizes someone who has spent many years making communities more inclusive. This award may be given after someone has passed away.

Nominees must:

- Have a lifelong commitment and dedication to creating inclusive communities.
- Have made a lasting impact.
- Be a role model for people with I/DD and their families, as well as professionals in community building.

Additional Information Needed for this Award

Please attach the nominee's resume or biography, which should include:

- their work history;
- service at the local, county, state or federal level;
- awards received;
- publications; and
- service to grassroots or professional organizations.

Please describe:

1. Why you think they are a role model for people with I/DD, their families, and people involved in community building.
2. How they have shown dedication and commitment to inclusive communities.



Distinguished DD Systems Change Award

This award honors a person or organization that has created real systems change and improved the lives of people with I/DD and their families.

Nominees must:

- Have made real change in systems at the local, county, state, or federal levels in one or more of the following areas:
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Transportation
 - Housing
 - Health Care
 - Child Care Services
 - Self-Direction
 - Personal Choice

Additional Information Needed for this Award

Please describe:

1. The changes the nominee made.
2. How those changes helped people with I/DD and their families.
3. How the nominee has shown leadership and creativity while advocating for individuals and families.
4. How they have shown kindness, honesty, and strong values.



Access Above and Beyond Award

This award honors businesses that go beyond what the law requires to make their space welcoming and accessible.

Nominees must:

- Go “above and beyond” expectations to improve accessibility, including providing:
 - Easy building access
 - Flexible seating
 - Staff trained to assist customers with disabilities
 - Large, clear signs
 - One-on-one help for customers

Additional Information Needed for this Award

Please describe:

1. How the business supports accessibility.
2. How it goes "above and beyond" what is expected.



Exceptional Policymaker Award

This award honors an elected official who has improved the lives of people with I/DD through laws or public policy.

Nominees must:

- Be a local, county, or state elected official.
- Show strong leadership and action to improve inclusion in their community or state.

Additional Information Needed for this Award

Please describe:

1. The nominee’s title/elected role.
2. What they did to promote inclusion.
3. How their work addresses important issues for people with I/DD and their families.
4. The positive outcomes of their efforts.



Multi-Media Award

The Multi-Media Award honors media professionals who fairly and accurately represent people with I/DD.

Entries will be judged by a panel made up of members of the awards committee and communications professionals on the following:

- **Journalistic quality:** Displaying creativity and originality while building public understanding of people with I/DD; using respectful, person-first language; and maintaining high journalistic and technical standards.
- **Understanding of people with disabilities:** Demonstrates the accomplishments and contributions of people with I/DD; recognizes the needs and preferences of people with I/DD; positively portrays individuals with I/DD as valued citizens living full, productive lives.

- **Depth and continuity of coverage:** Topics apply to the full spectrum of people with I/DD, even if showcasing one element or issue; demonstrates consistent and accurate reporting that raises public awareness of those issues.

Additional Information Needed for this Award

1. Describe the multi-media piece created by the nominee, including the theme(s)/topic(s).
2. Provide a sample of the media—an article, a news segment, a podcast, etc.—in a universally accessible format.
 - Recordings should be no longer than 60 minutes in length and contain complete programs or series, or a synopsis of a longer series.
 - A script or link is acceptable, if a recording isn't available.
 - DVDs must be PC compatible

Inclusive Education Award

This award honors educators or schools that include students with disabilities in all parts of school life. The goal of the Award is to develop a diverse network of educators who actively embrace the principles of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Nominees must engage in an educational program/practice that:

- Includes students with and without disabilities.
- Is ongoing (not a one-time event).
- Includes general and special education staff.
- Is part of the general education program.
- Works from a strengths-based model.
- Promotes high expectations for children with disabilities.
- Supports long-term success.

Additional Information Needed for this Award

Please describe:

- The educator or school.
- The program/practice, including how long it has been in place and how many students with and without Individual Education Plans (IEPs) participate in it.
- How it promotes inclusion.
- Available administrative support.

The Daniel J. Keating Leadership Award



This award honors a leader who protects the rights of people with disabilities, while showing strong, compassionate leadership.

Nominees must:

- Be a leader in their organization.
- Show strong leadership and compassion, while promoting quality services and supports for people with I/DD and their families.

Additional Information Needed for this Award

Please describe:

1. The nominee's leadership role.
2. How they “go above and beyond” what is expected.
3. How they show creativity, compassion, and strong values while advocating for individuals with I/DD and their families.

Nomination Entry Form

Award Category:

[check only one]

- Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award
- Elizabeth Boggs Family Member Advocate Award
- Lifetime Achievement Advocacy Award

Entry Deadline:

March 15, 2026

- Distinguished DD Systems Change Award
- Access Above and Beyond Award
- Exceptional Policymaker Award
- Multi-Media Award
- Inclusive Education Award

NOMINEE (Full Name): _____

Nominee Title: _____

Nominee Phone Number: _____

Nominee E-Mail: _____

Nominee Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Organization Name: _____

Organization Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Person Title _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact E-Mail: _____

Maximum of one nomination per category, per nominator.
Please attach Additional Information for the Award Category to this form.



Nomination Entry Form



Additional Information Required for Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award Nomination (attach additional paper as needed)

NOMINATOR (Full Name): _____

Nominator Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Nominator Phone Number: _____

Nominator E-Mail: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____
(professional, family, etc.)

Signature* _____ **Date:** _____

**By signing here, I certify that I have provided the additional information required for the award category.*

Mail Entries to:

NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities
P.O. Box 700
20 West State Street – 6th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0700

Email Entries to:

NJCDD@NJCDD.org

By Courier:

NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities
20 West State Street – 6th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-292-3745

Inquiries to:

NJCDD@NJCDD.org

**PLEASE SEND ONLY PAGES 10-11,
and any required additional information**

1. Please describe how the nominee has spoken up and taken action on the local, county, state, or federal level.

2. Please describe how they have shown leadership and creativity while advocating for individuals and families.

3. Please describe how they have shown kindness, honesty, and strong values.

4. Please describe their volunteer work or community service.



**Additional Information Required
for Elizabeth Boggs Family Member
Advocate Award Nomination**
(attach additional paper as needed)

1. Please describe the nominee's advocacy work in at least one of the listed area(s) on the local, county, state, or federal level.

2. Please describe how they have shown leadership and creativity while advocating for individuals and families.

3. Please describe how they have shown kindness, honesty, and strong values.

4. Please describe their volunteer work or community service.



**Additional Information Required
for Lifetime Achievement Advocacy
Award Nomination**
(attach additional paper as needed)

1. Attach the nominee's resume or a biography that summarizes their work experience; awards received; service at the local, county, state, and federal levels; publications; and service to other grassroots and professional organizations.

2. Please describe why you think the nominee is an exceptional role model for people with I/DD, their families, and professionals in community building.

3. Please describe how they have shown dedication and commitment to inclusive communities.



Additional Information Required for Distinguished DD Systems Change Award Nomination
(attach additional paper as needed)

1. Please describe the changes the nominee made.

2. Please describe how those changes helped people with I/DD and their families.

3. Please describe how they have shown leadership and creativity while advocating for individuals and families.

4. Please describe how they have shown kindness, honesty, and strong values.



Additional Information Required for Access Above and Beyond Award Nomination
(attach additional paper as needed)

1. Please describe how the business supports accessibility.

2. Please describe how it goes “above and beyond” what is expected.



**Additional Information Required
for Exceptional Policymaker Award
Nomination**
(attach additional paper as needed)

1. Please describe the nominee's title/elected role.

2. Please describe what they did to promote inclusion.

3. Please describe how their work addresses important issues for people with I/DD and their families.

4. Please describe the positive outcomes of their efforts.



**Additional Information Required for
Multi-Media Award Nomination**
(attach additional paper as needed)

1. Describe the multi-media piece created by the nominee, including the theme(s)/topic(s).

2. Provide a sample of the media—an article, a news segment, a podcast, etc.—in a universally accessible format.

- Recordings should be no longer than 60 minutes in length and contain complete programs or series, or a synopsis of a longer series. A script or link is acceptable, if a recording isn't available. DVDs must be PC compatible.



**Additional Information Required
for Inclusive Education Award
Nomination**
(attach additional paper as needed)

1. Please describe the educator or school.

2. Please describe the program or educational practice, including the length of time it has been in place and the number of students with and without Individual Education Plans (IEPs) participating in the program or practice.

3. Please describe how it promotes inclusion.

4. Please describe the available administrative support.



**Additional Information Required for
Daniel J. Keating Award Nomination**
(attach additional paper as needed)

1. Please describe the nominee's leadership role.

2. Please describe how they go "above and beyond" what is expected.

3. Please describe how they show creativity, compassion, and strong values while advocating for individuals with I/DD and their families.



Honoring Leadership and New Ideas for Inclusive Communities



1 (800) 792-8858 | njcdd@njcdd.org | www.njcdd.org