

2026 RTFH Conference on Homelessness Peer Awards

PEER AWARD INFORMATION

This document provides a preview of the questions you will be asked to complete on the nomination form. The questions appear exactly as they will on the form and include both **general questions that apply to all nominations** and **specific questions based on the award category selected**.

We encourage you to review the questions and prepare your responses before beginning the nomination form.

Recognizing the people behind the progress.

Every day across our region, individuals and teams are moving our work forward - building trust, removing barriers, finding solutions, creating pathways to housing, strengthening programs and systems, and helping people move toward greater stability.

This year, in the spirit of **Progress. On Purpose.**, we want to hear the story behind your nomination - the contribution, the impact, and the progress this person or team helped make possible. Tell us what they did, why it mattered, and what makes the way they approach this work worthy of recognition.

Nominations are open in five categories:

- Program Staff
- Housing
- Shelter / Intake
- Outreach
- Lived Experience Leadership

Individuals and teams may be nominated, and we know great work often crosses programs, roles, and traditional boundaries.

Nominations are open through November 13, 2026.

[Click here to complete nomination](#) or scan this QR code:



Award recipients will be recognized at the 5th Annual RTFH Conference on Homelessness, December 9-10, 2026, with recipients announced on December 10.

Below are the nomination form questions you will need to answer.

Section 1 - Nominee Information

- 1. Are you nominating: Individual / Team
- 2. Nominee name / Team name
- 3. Nominee's organization
- 4. Nominee's title or role, if applicable
- 5. If nominating a team, please list the team members you would like recognized, if known.

Section 2 - Award Category

6. Which Peer Award category best reflects this nominee's work?

- Program Staff
- Housing
- Shelter / Intake
- Outreach
- Lived Experience Leadership

Select the category that most closely reflects the nominee's contribution. Roles and responsibilities often cross traditional boundaries, so these categories are intended as a guide, not a limitation.

Section 3 – Category Descriptions

Program Staff

Description: Recognizes an individual or team whose day-to-day work supports people experiencing homelessness and helps them move toward greater stability. This may include case management, navigation, supportive services, benefits, employment, health and behavioral health connections, program operations, or other direct services and supports.

Question: How does this individual or team go beyond completing the day-to-day work of their program to make a meaningful difference for the people they serve?

Consider how they advocate, problem-solve, connect people to resources, build relationships, collaborate, support colleagues, or help people move toward greater stability.

Housing

Description: Recognizes an individual or team whose work helps people access, secure, and sustain housing. This may include housing navigation and location, landlord engagement, rental assistance, housing-focused case management, tenancy support, problem-solving, or other work that helps remove barriers and create pathways to permanent housing.

Question: How has this individual or team helped create a path to housing or housing stability when barriers stood in the way?

Consider persistence, creativity, landlord or partner relationships, advocacy, problem-solving, housing navigation, tenancy support, or their willingness to find another way forward.

Shelter / Intake

Description: Recognizes an individual or team working at a critical point of connection for people experiencing homelessness - helping people access shelter, services, resources, and meaningful next steps. This may include shelter staff, intake and access staff, diversion/problem-solving, navigation, coordinated entry, or others helping people connect to the support they need.

Question: How does this individual or team make a critical point of entry into our system more meaningful for the people they serve?

Consider how they create dignity, build trust, problem-solve, respond to immediate needs, connect people to resources, or help someone move from an immediate crisis toward a meaningful next step.

Outreach

Description: Recognizes an individual or team whose work engages and supports people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This may include street outreach, multidisciplinary outreach, health or behavioral health outreach, encampment engagement, navigation, or other community-based work that builds trust and helps create pathways toward shelter, housing, services, and stability.

Question: How does this individual or team demonstrate the persistence and trust-building necessary to help people experiencing unsheltered homelessness move forward?

Consider consistency, patience, engagement, creativity, advocacy, collaboration, connection to resources, or continuing to show up when progress takes time.

Lived Experience Leadership

Description: Recognizes an individual who draws on their lived experience of homelessness to help strengthen and advance our collective work. This may include contributions through employment, consulting, advocacy, policy, advisory or leadership roles, training, community engagement, program design, or systems change. This award celebrates someone who brings lived expertise together with action - using their voice, knowledge, skills, and experience to influence decisions, improve programs and systems, create opportunities for others, and help move our community forward.

Question: How is this nominee using their lived expertise to actively contribute to and advance the work in our community?

Please share a specific example of something they have helped influence, improve, create, change, or move forward through their employment, leadership, consulting, advocacy, policy work, community engagement, or other contributions.

Section 4 - Questions for All Nominees

7. Tell us their story.

Tell us about the contribution and impact of this individual or team. What did they do, who or what was impacted, and what progress happened because of their work? Specific examples are encouraged.

8. Finish this sentence:

Our community is better because this person/team _____.

In one or two sentences, tell us what you most want their peers and our community to know about them.

Section 5 - Nominator Information

- 9. Your name
- 10. Your organization
- 11. Your email address
- 12. Your relationship to the nominee: Colleague / Supervisor / Partner organization / Community partner / Other
- 13. May RTFH contact you if we would like additional information about your nomination? Yes / No