

# American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Annual Awards Guidelines and Evaluation

The purpose of AAIDD's annual awards is to recognize those who have made significant contributions that have influenced positive change in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities over an extended period of time. The following **general guidelines apply to all AAIDD awards**:

1. Membership in AAIDD is not a prerequisite for an award.
2. A candidate may not nominate himself or herself.
3. Recipients may receive an award in only one category in any given year.
4. Decisions of the Awards and Fellowship Committee will prevail.
5. Activities of recipients must have a national or international impact.
6. No posthumous awards will be given except for a person who died within the current year.
7. No elected AAIDD board member or staff at the state/provincial, regional, or national level is eligible for an award during his or her term of office.
8. Individuals may not be considered if they have received an award within the last 10 years.

The following **nomination guidelines apply to all AAIDD awards**, see table below for **awards with additional requirements**. Incomplete nominations will not be considered by the Awards and Fellowship Committee.

All nominations must include the following documentation, in English:

1. Nominator's name, affiliation, title, address, phone number, and email.
2. Nominee's name (or contact person for a nominated organization or program), affiliation, title, address, phone number, and email.
3. A narrative, not to exceed 500 words, in support of the nomination, addressing the following areas:
  - a. Significance of contributions.
  - b. Quality and thoroughness of contributions.
  - c. Years (duration) of significant effort.
  - d. Geographic range of contributions; (i.e., local, national, international)
  - e. Contributions within or beyond requirements of professional position.
4. Resume or vita of nominee.
5. List of three (3) references\* familiar with the nominee's achievements, including name, affiliation, title, address, phone number, and email. References may not work directly with the nominee.

\*note: some categories require not just the list of 3 references but a letter from each one of them. Please see the following pages for more information.

Areas in which awards for outstanding contributions or special achievement may be given are:

Award	Eligibility	Additional Nomination Requirements
<p><b>Education</b> Awarded for significant contributions to dissemination of knowledge in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities</p>	<p>Award is presented to an <i>individual</i>.</p>	<p>—</p>
<p><b>Full Community Inclusion</b> Awarded to culturally responsive programs that have succeeded in full community inclusion and participation.</p>	<p>Award is presented to an <i>organization or program</i> which serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is designed to and is successful in assuring the full community inclusion and participation of the people who receive services from the program;</li> <li>2. Empowers local communities in fully including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities;</li> <li>3. Serves as an inspiration for other community efforts at the local, state, regional, national and/or international levels; and</li> <li>4. Respects and is responsive to local cultures.</li> </ol>	<p>The three (3) letters of support for nomination must be from different types of individuals and entities, such as but not limited to human services agencies, government agencies, community members, and persons who receive services.</p>
<p><b>Hervey B. Wilbur Award for Historic Preservation</b> Awarded for contributions to historic preservation of the archives of the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or the Association.</p>	<p>Award is presented to an <i>individual, organization, or program</i>.</p>	<p>—</p>
<p><b>Dybwad Humanitarian Award</b> Awarded for promotion of human welfare and social reform.</p>	<p>Award is presented to an <i>individual</i>.</p>	<p>—</p>
<p><b>International</b> Awarded for outstanding contributions in research, education, service, or advocacy that has had an impact on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities within a particular country or across national lines.</p>	<p>Award is presented to an <i>individual who is a citizen of a country other than the US or Canada</i>.</p>	<p>The three (3) letters of support must include at least one from a member of AAIDD who is a citizen of the US or Canada.</p> <p>Brief examples or summaries of selected written work of the nominee must be provided in English.</p>
<p><b>Leadership</b> Awarded for courage and dedication resulting in an outstanding contribution to the field of and developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>Award is presented to an <i>individual</i>.</p>	<p>—</p>

Award	Eligibility	Additional Nomination Requirements
<b>Media</b> Awarded for significant contributions in depicting Americans with disabilities in a positive light.	Award is presented to an <i>individual, organization, or program</i> that has depicted Americans with disabilities in the nominated medium in a <i>positive light</i> .	A copy of or access to (URL, database, etc.) the work(s) depicting Americans with disabilities in the nominated medium in a <i>positive light</i> must be provided.
<b>Research</b> Awarded for formulations and investigations that have contributed significantly to the body of scientific knowledge in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.	Award is presented to an <i>individual</i> .	—
<b>Service</b> Awarded for contributions to improved service* to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	Award is presented to an <i>individual</i> .	—
<b>Special</b> Awarded for an unusual or significant contribution or achievement not covered by other award categories.	Award is presented to an <i>individual, organization, or program</i> .	—
<b>Student</b> Recognizes student contributions in service, leadership, or scholarship to the field intellectual and developmental disabilities.	Award is presented to an <i>individual</i> .  A <i>student</i> is a person who was a full-time or part-time student enrolled in a degree program at the time of nomination.	Only two (2) letters of support are required, but must be from faculty members and provide evidence of service, leadership or scholarship.*
<b>Early Career Award</b> Awarded for a recognized contribution to or achievement in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities by an individual in the early stages of their career.	Award is presented to an <i>individual</i> .  An <i>early career professional</i> is a person who has been active in the field for less than 10 years or be less than 10 years post graduate school at the time of nomination.	Letters of support must provide evidence of service, leadership, policy development, or scholarship.*

\*The following definitions apply:

*Service* means contributing to service improvement for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

*Leadership* means performance that has guided or directed others in improving the quality of programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

*Policy development* means contributions in public and social policy directed towards improving the quality of programs and services for citizens with intellectual or developmental disabilities

*Scholarship* means performance that reflects a systematic application of scientific inquiry techniques to a problem of significance in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities