

Bernard J. Tyson National Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Healthcare Equity Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why was the Bernard J. Tyson National Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Healthcare Equity established?

The Joint Commission and Kaiser Permanente established this award to encourage organizations nationally to address inequity and disparity in health care and lead to sustained improvement in patient outcomes. The Joint Commission and Kaiser Permanente share a vision that this award will recognize achievement, inspire organizations to launch projects to address healthcare disparities, and provide concrete examples for others to emulate.

What kinds of efforts would qualify for the award?

Interested organizations are encouraged to submit their applications describing efforts that addressed specific *disparities in care processes or outcomes* at their healthcare organization, implemented a well-defined intervention, and found a measurable, sustained reduction in disparities. Projects targeting a vulnerable population with known disparities are eligible even if they do not have an internal comparison group (e.g., a project to increase colon cancer screening among Black or Latino patients with baseline screening rates below national averages). Possible examples include projects to:

- Decrease disparities in cancer screening or increase follow-up after abnormal screening tests
- Decrease disparities in care for chronic conditions, e.g., cardiovascular disease, diabetes
- Decrease disparities in vaccination rates (influenza, pneumococcal pneumonia, herpes zoster)
- Increase prenatal care among minority populations
- Decrease disparities in experience of care (“satisfaction”)
- Increase the proportion of patients with limited English proficiency who receive interpreter services during admission or during daily rounds while hospitalized
- Implement a navigator program to decrease disparities in the proportion of patients with end-stage kidney disease who complete all required evaluations and are listed for transplant within a defined time period
- Implement a system to identify barriers to care (e.g., social determinants of health), link patients with barriers to community-based services to address these, and measure the number of patients who had their needs addressed
- Expand eligibility for ability to pay plans and demonstrate reductions in the proportion of patients who did not fill/refill prescriptions
- Decrease disparities in “no show” rates in ambulatory settings

Who is eligible to submit an application for this award?

- The applicant organization must deliver direct patient care. If a group of organizations or a collaborative is applying, it can include non-clinical partners.
- Organizations can apply regardless of their accrediting organization, and they do not need to be accredited to apply.
- Kaiser Permanente care sites are not eligible for this award.

How many awards will be given?

One (1) award will be conferred in the 2021 award cycle. There is no monetary award associated with this program. This is not a grant program.

Who evaluates the submissions?

A diverse panel of national healthcare equity experts has been assembled to review the submitted applications and select the award recipient. The panel list can be viewed [here](#).

How will the applications be evaluated?

The review panel will evaluate applications based on whether the submission:

1. Addresses a healthcare disparity that is an important quality and/or safety concern
2. Provides baseline data demonstrating the healthcare disparity addressed
3. Describes the root causes of the gap, including causes within the healthcare organization or in the community (e.g., social determinants of health, implicit/subconscious bias, and institutional/structural racism)
4. Describes details of the interventions implemented
5. Demonstrates a measurable improvement in care for one or more underrepresented group(s); this may include processes of care, outcomes, and/or experience of care
6. Demonstrates sustained improvement; there is no minimum duration for this, but six months or more is desirable
7. Describes innovative aspects of the project, including principles that are applicable to other disparities and/or any lessons learned that may be beneficial to other organizations

How do we submit an application?

Applications will only be accepted through the [official Tyson Award online platform](#) starting May 17, 2021. A [preview of the application](#) has been provided here to assist organizations as they begin to compile their narrative responses, performance data, and other details so they will be ready to enter the information into the platform when it opens.

When can I submit my application?

The application period will open May 17, 2021 and has been extended from June 8 to now close on August 6, 2021 at 11:59 PM (CT).

When will the awardee be selected and notified?

The Joint Commission and Kaiser Permanente anticipate the recipient to be selected and notified in 4Q2021.

If there a fee to submit an application?

There is no fee to submit an application for consideration for the 2021 Bernard J. Tyson National Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Healthcare Equity.

How is this award different from other existing awards regarding healthcare disparities and improving equity?

The Bernard J. Tyson National Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Healthcare Equity is focused on demonstrated and sustained improvement, based on the applicants' documented performance data submitted as a part of their application. The awardee's submission will be evidence-based, and by demonstrating how they made their improvement, sharing their approach, and the key lessons learned, the awardee can assist The Joint Commission and Kaiser Permanente to help other organizations replicate their best practices.

If I have questions about the award, where can I submit them?

Questions can be submitted to: TysonAward@jointcommission.org.