

Dos and Don'ts for applying for the Bernard J. Tyson National Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Healthcare Equity

Thinking about applying for the Bernard J. Tyson National Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Healthcare Equity? Here are some helpful dos and don'ts on how to make sure your application is submitted correctly!

NOTE: An application only will be considered if the lead organization directly delivers healthcare. If a group of organizations or a collaborative is applying, it can include nonclinical partners. To verify your organization's or initiative's eligibility, see the Eligibility Checklist at: <https://www.jointcommission.org/resources/awards/the-bernard-tyson-award-for-excellence-in-pursuit-of-healthcare-equity/tyson-award-application-resources/>

DO



Submit applications that describe efforts that:

- Addressed **specific** disparities in care processes or outcomes.
- Implemented a **well-defined** intervention.
- Found **measurable, sustained reductions** in the specific disparity.



Determine primary contact for application and use their contact information within the application. This is the individual with whom we will be in contact regarding your application.



Include the following information:

- Leadership-level name (such as a CEO or executive director) and contact information.
- Organization's name.
- Physical address and website address.



Stay within the 7-page limit for supplemental documents including tables, figures, or graphic representations of your initiative. Applicants must reference each figure or table within their written responses to link the information.

Remember to download/export a PDF copy of your application. You can use it to double check over your work before submitting and/or save for your records.

DON'T



Submit an application that did not achieve measurable effects on care processes or outcomes. Applications that do not demonstrate an improvement in at least one disparity will not be considered.



Hit the submit button without double checking your responses! There is a character limit for each question in the application and an automated counter. Responses over the character limit will be truncated.



Organizations based outside the United States are ineligible. Award program is for United States-based organizations (including Territories and military bases).

What does measurable improvement mean?



- Baseline data that shows the initiative's starting point.
- The ability to explain the intervention that was used, as well as how it was innovative or novel.
- Improvement metrics that track the initiative's effects on the targeted vulnerable population. These targeted populations include race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, socioeconomic status.
- Evidence (results tables, statistical tests, run charts, and other quantitative methods) that shows how the improvement was achieved and sustained.

One of the goals of the Tyson Award is to inspire other organizations. By applying, we hope to share your best practices and improvement strategies — in part or in full — to carry these lessons forward.

Get familiar with the application by checking out a sample application example on The Joint Commission's website at <https://www.jointcommission.org/resources/awards/the-bernard-tyson-award-for-excellence-in-pursuit-of-healthcare-equity/tyson-award-application-resources/>



2025 Bernard J. Tyson Award Eligibility Checklist

Organizational Requirements

- ☐ The **lead organization submitting the application must deliver direct patient care**. If a group of organizations or a collaborative is applying, it can include non-clinical partners.
- ☐ Health care organizations applying for the award that operate in settings for which Joint Commission has accreditation/certification programs must be accredited/certified by The Joint Commission.
- ☐ Applicants must be United States-based (including US Territories and military bases).
- ☐ Kaiser Permanente care sites are not eligible for this award.

Initiative Eligibility

- ☐ Initiative achieved results beyond addressing SDOH/HRSN to illustrate improvement in patient outcomes (improved outcomes can include but are not limited to adherence to appointments/follow-up care, decreased morbidity, decreased mortality, improved screening or test results).
- ☐ Initiative was planned to address specific disparity/ies
- ☐ Initiative targeted a specific vulnerable population (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, socioeconomic status, etc).
- ☐ Measurable, sustained improvement (in processes of care, health outcomes, and/or experience of care) was achieved and documented with strong data/proof (>12 months data required) including:
 - Baseline data to show initiative starting point
 - Data that show baseline metrics improved for target population
 - Data that show the improvement was sustained
- ☐ Intervention(s) implemented are well-defined (Tools, Strategies)
- ☐ Improvement methodology can be described (for example, PDSA, Lean/Six Sigma, PDCA; Change Management, IHI Model of Improvement, other methodologies)
- ☐ Initiative was innovative or novel (not yet standard of patient care or industry practice)
- ☐ Your organization will permit The Joint Commission to share your application, in part or in whole, to inspire organizations and share best-practices and improvement strategies.