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**2026 Foster G. McGaw Prize Application**

The decision to apply for the **Foster G. McGaw Prize** demonstrates your commitment to your community as well as an eagerness to share your organization’s experience, innovations and expertise in driving improvements in community health. The distinct honor of winning the Prize exhibits remarkable standards to which others will aspire and motivate your organization to continue its good work.

The Baxter International Foundation, the American Hospital Association and its Health Research & Educational Trust invite you to be a national example of excellence and innovation in serving your community by applying for the 2026 Foster G. McGaw Prize.

The Prize honors one winner and up to three finalists.

**Prize Eligibility**

The Foster G. McGaw Prize honors health delivery organizations (hospitals, health systems or clinically integrated networks) that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to community health and well-being. Organizations that exhibit the criteria described below are eligible to apply for the Prize, which is one of the most coveted, significant honors in health care.

To be eligible for the Prize, applicants must demonstrate the following criteria:

**Leadership:** The organization collaborates with the community to achieve better health and well-being by ensuring that regular community health needs assessments are completed, community-wide planning and co-design of programs and services are conducted, and that transparent outcome metrics are tracked to ensure accountability and progress. The organization demonstrates alignment between prioritized community health needs and the initiatives it co-creates with community. All internal stakeholders, including the governing body, leadership and staff demonstrate engagement in and commitment to the organization's community health strategies, partnerships and collaboratives.

**Community Partnerships:** The organization partners and/or collaborates with a broad range of community organizations to identify and address societal factors influencing health and improve access to high-quality, safe and equitable health care. These partnerships have a shared purpose and a passion for making the community healthier and more vital. Their achievements demonstrate strong community engagement and co-design in this work and the community served both embraces and participates in the initiatives of the partnerships.

**Breadth and Depth of Initiatives:** The organization’s community health initiatives (a) exceed the definition of acute medical and health care services; (b) improve access to medical and social services for all communities; (c) address disparities in health and health care outcomes; (d) address societal factors influencing health; and (e) result in improved health for the communities it serves.

**Application Materials**

To be considered for the Foster G. McGaw Prize:

**1. Complete the application cover page:**

* Contact information
* Type of organization
* How you learned about the Foster G. McGaw Prize
* CEO, board chair, chief medical officer/chief physician executive, CFO, and chief community health officer signatures attesting support for and accuracy of the application; confirmation that there are no matters that would preclude the organization from being considered for the Prize; and agreeing to AHA use/dissemination of information.

**2. Table of Contents with page numbers.**

**3. Please provide the following items on individual pages, using the bolded words as headings. Links to external content are not accepted and will not be reviewed:**

A. **Executive summary:** Include a brief description of the organization’s strategic approach to community health and health equity and how it is integrated with the organization’s population health strategy, and a list of the organization’s programs that are highlighted in the application. ***Maximum of 1 page in length, single-sided***.

B. **Overview of the health delivery organization**: Include a description of the organization’s mission and history, structure, and relevant facilities, services and market share. ***Maximum of one-half page in length, single-sided.***

C. **Overview of the community served:** Include population size, demographics, geographic distribution (including populations living in rural communities), payer mix, and major employers. ***Maximum of 1 page in length, single-sided*.**

D. **Organizational commitment** to and passion for developing innovative partnerships and collaboratives that improve the health and well-being of the community, using the following subheads ***(maximum of 3 pages in length, single-sided)***:

1. **Overview**: Describe (a) the basis for your organization’s commitment to community health and developing innovative partnerships and collaboratives that improve the health and well-being of your community; (b) how community health needs are reflected in your organization’s overall strategic plan and population health strategy, as well as how your board and executive leadership (including medical staff leadership) are accountable for community health, and (c) how the organization’s community investment and/or development programming improves health outcomes.
2. **Leadership**: Describe (a) how the organization partners with the community to achieve better health and well-being by ensuring regular community needs assessments are completed, community-wide planning is conducted, and that metrics are established to ensure accountability and to monitor and evaluate progress and outcomes; (b) how the organization demonstrates alignment between the community’s health needs and the initiatives it co-creates with community members; and (c) how all levels of the organization, including governance, leadership and staff, are engaged in and committed to the organization’s community health strategies, partnerships and collaboratives.
3. **Community Collaborations/Partnerships**: Describe (a) how the organization collaborates and/or partners with a broad range of community members and organizations to identify and address societal factors influencing health and improve access to high-quality, safe and equitable health care; (b) how these partnerships have developed a shared purpose, goals, and governance structure; and (c) how achievements demonstrate strong community engagement in the work and that the community leads and/or co-designs and participates in the initiatives of the partnerships.
4. **Breadth and Depth of Initiatives**: Describe how the organization’s community health initiatives (a) exceed the definition of acute medical and health care services; (b) improve access to medical and social services for all communities; (c) address disparities in health and health care outcomes; (d) address societal factors influencing health; (e) invest in community development programming; and (f) have resulted in sustainable improvements.
5. **Demonstrated Results in Improved Health Outcomes:** Describe how the organization’s community health initiatives demonstrate measurable, sustainable results in improved health outcomes across time and for the program (that is, significance of the health outcomes and longevity and magnitude of the impact) and demonstrate a clear linkage to the community health needs assessment and the organization’s overall strategic plan. Include information about key metrics tracked internally and shared externally, including any that have been published or shared more widely with the field to advance the work of community health more broadly.

E. Summary of key findings from the organization’s most recent **community health needs assessment**. Please describe ***(maximum of 3 pages in length, single-sided):***

How community members and organizations are engaged/participate in the assessment and prioritization of needs and the development of improvement plans.

How your leadership team and board participate in the community health assessment process.

The community’s most significant social health challenges as prioritized by a community health needs assessment.

The improvement planning process for prioritized needs.

1. How the community assessment goals and metrics are tracked and reported to internal and external stakeholders

**4.** **Please provide** **a description of 5 distinct, innovative community health initiatives** that best exemplify how the organization has developed sustainable community partnerships and collaboratives to improve the health and well-being of its community. All of the initiatives must have been operational for a minimum of 3 years and 3 initiatives must have been operational for at least 5 years. **For each initiative, please provide the following, using the subheadings below (e.g., A. Overview, B. Impact, etc.) *(maximum of 1 page in length, single-sided, for each initiative described)*:**

1. Overview: Describe the major partners and/or collaborators, initiative, length of operation, and the role the organization played to meet the unique needs of the community and the major societal factors influencing health challenges, and how it effectively uses community resources.
2. Impact: Provide outcome measures, such as the number of people served, number of visits, and quantifiable, sustainable improvements in the health and well-being of the community.
3. Lessons Learned: Briefly explain lessons learned in the implementation of the initiative.
4. Future Goals: Describe plans for maintaining or expanding the initiative.
5. Operating Expenses: List the initiative’s total operating expenses for the most recently completed fiscal year and specify the value of in-kind contributions, if any.
6. Funding: Itemize the major sources for the initiative’s funding and support, including the specific amount of dollars and grants/in-kind resources contributed by the applicant and by other organizations. Describe other ways that the organization leveraged or organized external investment or support for the initiative, if applicable, and plans for financial sustainability in the future.

**5. Please provide a** budget summary with a brief narrative that describes the organization’s funding, including direct and indirect investments in community health and total revenue, expenses and margin. Include the percentage of budget spent on community benefit activities and the percentage of budget spent on the 5 initiatives described in #4, above. ***Maximum of 2 pages in length each, single-sided.***

**6. Please provide the board roster, including titles and affiliations. *Maximum of 2 pages in length, single-sided.***

**7. Please provide an organizational chart showing the staffing and leadership structure for community health within the organization.**

**8. Please submit 2 letters of support or endorsement from community stakeholders or partners. *Maximum of 1 page in length each, single-sided***.

**Application Submission Requirements**

Your completed application, including the application cover page and a table of contents, must be paginated and **must not** **exceed more than 25 pages in length, single-sided**. Please consolidate all application materials into **one printable PDF using the following file name convention: OrganizationName\_FGM26**. Do not lock or apply protection to the PDF. If the **file size exceeds 5MB**, please use the reduce file size function in Adobe Acrobat Pro to reduce it.

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Please email your application to [fostermcgaw@aha.org](mailto:fostermcgaw@aha.org) by **noon Central on** **Tuesday, May 6, 2025**. Applications will be acknowledged within one business day.

**Site Visits**: Up to four organizations being considered for the Prize will receive a site visit. Site visits are 3.5 hours long and will take place **Oct. 26-29, 2025**. Each applicant submitting an application is required to be available during the dates provided. In addition, applicants are strongly encouraged to host the site visit at a community location that is reflective of your investments and partnerships.

**Award Presentation**

The 2026 Foster G. McGaw Prize will be presented at the AHA Leadership Summit, July 12-14, 2026, in Denver. The winner will receive $100,000 and each finalist will receive $10,000.

**Prize Sponsor**

The Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service is generously sponsored by the Baxter International Foundation. The Foundation helps advance Baxter’s mission to save and sustain lives by partnering with organizations around the world to increase access to health care for the underserved, develop the next generation of innovators who will lead the way in advancing health care and to create a positive, long-lasting impact in communities globally.

**2026 Foster G. McGaw Prize Application**

**Cover Page**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organization name:** |  |
| **Contact name:** |  |
| **Title:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Address:** |  |

**TYPE OF ORGANIZATION (please check).** *For organizations that are part of a system, applicants are welcome to apply as a system* ***or*** *individual unit/subsidiary organization.*

o Health care system

o Independent hospital or hospital or unit within a health care system

o Integrated delivery network

**WHERE DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE FOSTER G. McGAW PRIZE?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| o AHA Website o AHA Email/Newsletter | o AHA Meeting/Conference o LinkedIn | Other: |

**ATTESTATIONS**

We acknowledge and support this application, confirm that the information provided is accurate, that there are no outstanding clinical, financial or legal matters that would preclude the organization from being considered for the Prize, and that the AHA has permission to use and disseminate the information as part of the application process.

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| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive Officer | Type or print name |
|  |  |
| Chair, Board of Directors | Type or print name |
|  |  |
| Chief Medical Officer/Chief Physician Executive | Type or print name |
|  |  |
| Chief Financial Officer | Type or print name |
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| Chief Community Health Officer | Type or print name |
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