

Deborah Vespy Systems Change Champion Award

Deaconess Foundation

Instructions

Introduction

Welcome to the nomination process for the 2024 Deborah Vespy Systems Change Champion Award. This award is a retrospective one, designed for work that has been completed or is ongoing. This nomination form asks you to describe activities and results that have already occurred, rather than to project what use the funds will have. You may nominate your own organization.

The award winner will receive a \$50,000 prize, made in the form of an unrestricted grant.

Call-In Times

DF staff will hold time to answer questions on the Deborah Vespy Systems Change Champion Award selection process and provide guidance regarding consideration of an application. Feel free to call Danielle Crawford at 216/544-3602 at any of the following times:

May 13, 10a-12p

May 16, 2-4p

May 23, 9-11a

June 5, 9-11a

Selection Criteria

A systems change effort will be considered more favorably in the evaluation if it meets one or many of these criteria:

1. The effort is in **alignment with the Foundation's mission and impacts detailed** in its 2024 – 2026 strategic plan;
2. The effort has created, or has obvious potential to create, **transformative impact**. This impact can be achieved through a variety of means (which could include scale, structure, or expansiveness of participation, or any other way impact can be achieved)
3. the effort has addressed **reducing the impact of, or eliminating altogether, racial inequities** in the workforce development system, and
4. **learnings** have emerged from the effort which could positively impact other actors, regions/geographies, or partnerships.

Selection Process

Thank you for sharing your systems change and/or scalable innovation efforts with the Deaconess Foundation (DF). The selection process will follow these steps:

- 1. Submission of Nomination.** Once you complete this nomination form and submit it, you will receive an automatic email response informing you that your form has been received.
- 2. Staff Review.** DF staff will review your nomination, and may contact you with questions. Eligible nominations will be moved on to the next phase of the process.
- 3. Selection Committee Review.** A Committee comprised of DF Board Members and community leaders will recommend an award winner and finalists from among the nominations submitted to the Deaconess Board. The full Board will select the winner.
- 4. Announcement and Celebration.** The award and its winner will be publicized, and celebrated at a special reception on October 4th at The City Club of Cleveland.

Need Help?

Please contact Danielle Crawford at 216/544-3602 or d Crawford@deaconessfdn.org.

Application Details

Project Name*

Character Limit: 100

Optional Organization Introduction

Optional Organization Information

If you have not worked with the Deaconess Foundation in the past 3 years and would like to better introduce or re-introduce your organization, please feel free to upload an additional document prepared for another purpose here.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Systems Change and/or Scalable Innovation Effort

Description*

Provide an overview of the effort you would like to have considered. Be sure to identify the workforce challenge you sought to address.

Character Limit: 2500

How many people has the effort influenced in the last year?*

Feel free to provide insights into those directly and indirectly influenced.

Character Limit: 1500

Type of Systems Change*

Please indicate how systems change was accomplished by the work completed. Systems change is often conceptualized as a shift in the conditions that keep a problem in place.

Examples of systems change efforts, reflecting the type of activity this award seeks to recognize, include but are not limited to:

- Changes in organizational policies, procedures, practices, and culture, within or across organizations in the workforce development ecosystem.
- Changes in the operational boundaries between organizations, the relationships among entities and people within and across the actors in the workforce development ecosystem.
- Changes in the behaviors, attitudes and the way in which different actors work within the workforce development ecosystem.
- Improved collaboration, coordination and impact within the workforce development ecosystem.

If systems change does not apply to your nomination, please type "NA"

Character Limit: 1500

Type of Scalable Innovation*

Please indicate how scalable innovation was addressed. Innovation initiatives can be a new process, approach, practice or product, any of which have been applied within the workforce development ecosystem.

Scalable innovation that qualifies for this award meets the following criteria:

- The initiative has been implemented as a pilot or rollout and is ready for expansion beyond one individual organization or has been piloted or rolled out across more than one organization. (An initiative which only benefits one organization will not be considered.)
- It has either 1) demonstrated an improvement in the effectiveness of some element of the workforce ecosystem or 2) solved a problem for which there was no prior solution, in addressing significant improvements identified above.
- Its effectiveness or value has been recognized, or has the scaling support, of at least one individual or entity which is outside the organization implementing the innovation.

If scalable innovation does not apply to your nomination, please type "NA".

Character Limit: 1500

Racial Equity*

Please describe how the effort reduces the impact of racial inequities.

Character Limit: 1000

Learnings*

How have learnings emerging from this effort been used to influence other actors, regions/geographies, or partnerships?

Character Limit: 1000

Results*

Please describe how your effort demonstrated achievement of systems change and/or scalable innovation in the local workforce development ecosystem.

Character Limit: 1000

Collaborations*

If this application describes the efforts of individuals/organizations outside of your organization, please describe their roles.

Character Limit: 1000

Optional Video

If you would like to make a **short** (3 minutes or less) video adding some detail or color to your application form, you may upload here or otherwise make it available to Danielle Crawford, at dcrawford@deaconessfdn.org.

Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 1 MB