



CHAMPION FOR NATIVE CHILDREN

2027 Award Guidelines:

Established by the National Indian Child Welfare Association's (NICWA) board of directors, this annual award honors an individual and an organization that has made outstanding contributions to the well-being of Indigenous children in the United States and/or Canada. The inaugural award was presented at the 30th Annual Protecting Our Children Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, in 2012.

The awardee should be an individual or organization that has shown leadership as a social worker, case manager, or foster parent, having made significant contributions to the well-being of Indigenous children, families, and communities in the United States and/or Canada. Such contributions may consist of:

- Demonstrates excellence, creativity, and leadership affecting positive change in Tribal child welfare, children's mental health, or juvenile justice in Tribal communities.
- Advocacy for Tribal children, families, and communities.
- Development and/or promotion of programs and policies that support Tribes, children, and families.
- Work for development of policy designed to protect Native children, enhance the well-being of Native children, or to strengthen the Indian Child Welfare Act.
- Work to obtain funding necessary to implement programs and policies supporting Indigenous children and families.
- A significant body of work that spans several years up to lifelong service to promoting the well-being of Indigenous children and families and strengthening Tribal sovereignty.

Two awards are to be given out: Champion for Native Children-Individual will be awarded to an individual person and Champion for Native Children-Organization will be awarded to a Tribe or organization.

Awardees will be honored at NICWA's 45th Annual Protecting Our Children Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on April 5–7, 2027. Participation to accept the award in-person is a condition of receipt.

Nomination applications must be postmarked by Monday, January 4, 2027.

Nomination Application: Champion for Native Children Award

Nominee's Information (All information below is required):

Which award are you nominating an individual for:

- ☐ Champion for Native Children-Individual
☐ Champion for Native Children-Organizational

Name (or Organization) _____
Tribal Affiliation (if any) _____
Company or Organization _____
Job Title _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Prov. _____ Postal Code _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Is this application a self nomination? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If not, is the nominee aware of this nomination? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Nominating Sponsor's Information (if applicable):

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Prov. _____ Postal Code _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Relationship to the nominee _____

Please include two references that can attest to the achievements of the candidate and provide additional information if needed:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Prov. _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Relationship to the nominee _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Prov. _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Relationship to the nominee _____

Nomination Essay: Please use 500–800 words to describe the achievements that make this nominee a good candidate for the Champion for Native Children Award. Please see guidelines on the previous page for additional information.

I affirm that the statements in this application are correct to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that all Selection Committee decisions are final. I am personally acquainted with the nominee and hereby endorse his/her nomination.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail this signed application form along with a nomination essay to:

Attn: Champion for Native Children, NICWA, 6720 S Macadam Avenue, Ste 150, Portland, Oregon 97239
Or email your application directly to training@nicwa.org