



SSWLHC
Society for Social Work
Leadership in Health Care

Call for Award Nominations

***58th Annual Meeting and Conference
2023 Recognition Awards***

Social Work Leadership in Clinical Practice

Social Work Leadership in Healthcare Public Policy & Advocacy

Social Work Leadership in Healthcare Programs

Emerging Healthcare Social Work Leader of the Year

**Joan Upshaw Award: Promoting the Entrepreneurial Spirit of Advocacy and
Inclusiveness in Social Work**

Ellen Perlman Simon Outstanding Mentor Award

**Awards will be presented at SSWLHC's 58th Annual Meeting & Conference
October 1-4, 2023**

Social Work in Health Care Leadership

Social Workers, regardless of their position, setting, or scope of practice, are called upon to lift up the needs and concerns of the patients and families they serve, their interprofessional teams, and their communities.

Social Workers are committed to scholarship, collaborative relationship building, and collective healing.

SSWLHC AWARDS

As the premier global membership organization representing health care social workers, The Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care (SSWLHC) has a longstanding and proud history of recognizing industry leaders and stellar accomplishments in health care social work.

SSWLHC has identified six awards distinguishing extraordinary achievement conferred at the SSWLHC Annual Meeting and Conference. In 2023, the Boards of the Foundation and the Society renamed awards with a focus on the intention of the Award while honoring and maintaining their inspiration:

- Social Work Leadership in Clinical Practice (formerly Ida M. Cannon Award)
- Social Work Leadership in Healthcare Public Policy & Advocacy
- Social Work Leadership in Healthcare Programs (formerly Eleanor Clark Award for Innovative Programs in Patient Care)
- Emerging Healthcare Social Work Leader of the Year (formerly, Hyman J. Weiner Award)
- Joan Upshaw Award: Promoting the Entrepreneurial Spirit of Advocacy and Inclusiveness in Social Work
- Ellen Perlman Simon Outstanding Mentor Award

Candidates for ALL Society Awards demonstrate:

- Strong, active participation in their work, profession, and SSWLHC
- Expertise in what is being considered outstanding achievement, performance, and accomplishment.
- Intellectual curiosity by continually learning more about work challenges and current developments in social work and fields of practice both locally and globally
- Excellent communication skills to represent work affiliation, community, and region
- Strong Conceptual knowledge of leadership in all of its forms and professionalism

Award Processes

The calls for awards nominations are sent out each year for the fall conference. Nominations received are reviewed by the Awards committee based on the criteria stated, and the awards are presented at SSWLHC's annual conference in the fall.

Awardees are professional social workers (BSW, MSW, MSSW, Ph.D., DSW) who are members in good standing of SSWLHC, representing the best of the organization and the social work profession.

Nominations must be submitted by [Wednesday, Aug 23rd, 2023](#).

Social Work Leadership in Clinical Practice
[SUBMIT AN ONLINE NOMINATION FOR THIS AWARD](#)

Background

The inspiration for this most prestigious SSWLHC award, first presented in 1971, was Ida M. Cannon, who organized the first social work department in an acute care medical setting in 1906 at Massachusetts General Hospital. Harriet Bartlett a prominent health social work educator and researcher as well as protégé of Ms. Cannon's explained Ida Cannon's impact on the early field of social work in her 1975 article: "She always kept the individual patient's needs in the central focus, continually interpreted the social aspects of illness as a basic concept, and emphasized the teamwork of the professions - medicine, nursing, social work, and others. Thus, she built an enduring model which spread throughout this country and beyond."

In a 1930 address, Ms. Cannon stated, "The medical social service movement recognized that there should be within the hospital, someone definitely assigned to represent the patient's point of view... And to work out with the physician, an adaptation of the medical treatment in the light of the patient's social condition." To realize this goal, interdisciplinary rounds with social workers were created and continue to exist today throughout hospitals worldwide.

Award Purpose, Expectations of Nominees

This award honors a national figure in health social work for outstanding contributions to the leadership of social work in a health care setting and to the SSWLHC. Candidates must be widely recognized leaders in health social work and demonstrate the qualities that made Ida Cannon successful as the foremost social work leader in health care.

Award Criteria

In addition to demonstrating the characteristics of candidates for all Society awards, the recipient must be a National SSWLHC member who:

- Leads, organizes and evaluates the effective and efficient provision of clinical social work practice in the health care field.
- Contributes to and shares knowledge to influence health care systems and the external environment to meet the psychosocial needs of patients, families, and populations.
- Prioritizes and privileges relationships with patients, caregivers, and their systems of care.
- Prioritizes and privileges ethical considerations in care.
- Models courage in practice and cultural humility.
- Organizes and transmits knowledge in meaningful ways to improve care beyond individual practice.

Emerging Healthcare Social Work Leader of the Year
[SUBMIT AN ONLINE NOMINATION FOR THIS AWARD](#)

Background

The inspiration for this award is Hyman J. Weiner, who was instrumental in advancing social work practice in health care settings. Known to many SSWLHC members and other peers around the country as “Hy,” he was a great social work leader, inspiring teacher, and thoughtful researcher who was instrumental in advancing social work practice in health care settings. A professor at Columbia University School of Social Work until his untimely death in 1980, Hy was one of the first Directors of the SSWLHC’s Social Work Administration in Health Care Program (formerly known as the 13 Month Course in Social Work Management), then co-sponsored by Columbia University. Consistently popular as a lecturer at the Society’s annual meetings, he made learning a great joy.

Award Purpose, Expectations of Nominees

This award honors an SSWLHC member who, as an *emerging leader*, leans into leadership opportunities to advance support and programs for patients, families, and multi-disciplinary teams.

Award Criteria

This award recognizes an up-and-coming leader within the Social Work profession. This Social Worker serves as either an informal or formal leader who uses their sphere of influence to lift up the profession and programmatic progress of the organization. The recipient:

- A social worker with fewer than 10 years in practice within health care domains.
- Demonstrates emerging leadership qualities which may be within individual clinical practice through macro community practice
- Demonstrates excellent communication skills and an understanding of systems within which they work.
- Contributes to better patient outcomes and experiences and promotes strategies within teams.
- Introduces/Develops the social work role in a new program or area of health care.
- May or may not provide supervision to other staff.

Social Work Leadership in Health Care Public Policy & Advocacy
[SUBMIT AN ONLINE NOMINATION FOR THIS AWARD](#)

Background

Established in 2023 in recognition of the critical importance of healthcare social work in public policy and advocacy. The inspiration for this award is the courageous work of many social workers who have begun and continue to bring social justice perspectives to healthcare settings to advance health equity and promote collective justice and healing.

Award Purpose, Expectations of Nominees

This award honors a healthcare social work leader who actively educates, informs, and leads SSWLHC membership through engagement in healthcare public policy and advocacy efforts. In this context, a leader refers to *all* social workers who have had central involvement in developing improved delivery systems.

Award Criteria

The recipient will be an individual who:

- Demonstrates a consistent commitment to address the social and healthcare needs of populations who are underserved
- Demonstrates and promotes cultural humility and keen awareness of themselves and actively works to address biased or discriminatory thinking or behaviors
- Works directly with communities and the people within communities to address health care disparities and solutions.
- Contributes to the body of knowledge through discussion, presentation, publication, research, or other activities to increase the likelihood of engagement and actual change for people with the communities of focus
- Actively engages with the SSWLHC Public Policy or other committees working on public policy.

Social Work Leadership in Health Care Programs
[SUBMIT AN ONLINE NOMINATION FOR THIS AWARD](#)

Background

This award is inspired by Eleanor Clark, whose innovative spirit and program development changed the health care social work landscape. Eleanor's legacy includes nearly 30 years with Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), serving as the Director of the social work department from 1964 to 1984. She developed the Transfer Office and the Adult Foster Family Care Program. The Transfer Office assured continuity of care for patients from the hospital to the community through a team of social workers and continuing care nurses. The Adult Foster Family Care Program provided foster care as an alternative to nursing homes for elderly patients and was later expanded to include persons with disabilities and HIV. She was instrumental in creating Boston's Chelsea Health Center, an integral part of that community. In 1984, she was promoted to associate general director of the hospital. Eleanor was actively working on developing innovative patient care programs when she died later that year. Her last major project was the MGH Coordinator Care Program. Funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the project enhanced patients' abilities to return to their communities by ensuring the provision of services necessary to remain in their homes following discharge.

Award Purpose, Expectations of Nominees

This award honors an individual or team for developing, implementing, and evaluating a clinical or social action program that emulates Eleanor Clark's spirit of discovery and innovation. In addition, the award seeks to promote creative and valuable new programs throughout health care fields.

Award Criteria

The recipient will be an individual or team that developed and successfully implemented an innovative clinical or social action-focused program. The program's merits and achievements are evaluated by the following:

- Fulfills an unmet need for a specific population
- Demonstrates sound conceptualization and innovative program design
- Successful program implementation
- Demonstration of the program's effectiveness

Joan Upshaw
Promoting the Entrepreneurial Spirit of Advocacy and Inclusiveness in Social Work
[SUBMIT AN ONLINE NOMINATION FOR THIS AWARD](#)

Background

The Joan Upshaw Award was established in 2014 as an endowed award in honor of Joan K. Upshaw. Joan was a social work leader in health care and a pioneer in social work enterprise. This award honors the memory of Joan's entrepreneurial spirit.

In 1988, Joan founded her own social work company, first known as Joan Upshaw & Associates, a clinical social work agency, which later became Social Work p.r.n. As the Founder and President, Joan pioneered the field of social work staffing & built it as a nationwide company.

Joan mentored many social workers throughout her career and was a lifetime Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care member.

Award Purpose, Expectations of Nominees

This award honors an individual who demonstrates the application of entrepreneurship or intrapreneurship principles in their role as a formal or informal leader in social work in health care, including identifying and starting new ventures, increasing the efficacy and efficiency of social work interventions, generating new social work products and services and advocating for the profession of social work.

Award Criteria

The recipient will demonstrate a commitment to diversity as a leader in health care social work, including strengthening efforts to increase diversity within social work in health care and employing practice interventions that promote cultural humility. The honoree must be an SSWLHC member and demonstrate the following:

- A commitment to promoting and advocating for social work in their role as a formal or informal leader in social work in health care, including growing practice opportunities for social workers
- Enhance the public image of social work, and increase access to social work services for vulnerable populations.
- Demonstrate mentoring with emerging social work leaders in health care
- Offers opportunities for growth and development of social workers in their role as formal or informal leader in social work in health care.

Ellen Perlman Simon
Leadership in Education & Mentorship
[SUBMIT A ONLINE NOMINATION FOR THIS AWARD](#)

Background

The Ellen Perlman Simon is an *endowed* award established to honor the memory of SSWLHC leader Ellen Perlman Simon. Dr. Simon was the longstanding Director of Social Work at New York's Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, who later became the Executive Director of the Union Settlement Association.

A tireless and dedicated mentor to many, this award will honor leaders in healthcare social work who support new up-and-coming social workers in healthcare through promotion, guidance, and education. This recognized leader will have worked to cultivate and support future Social Work and Healthcare leaders.

Award Purpose, Expectations of Nominees

This award honors an individual who demonstrates a commitment to Education and Mentorship. This may include participating as an SSWLHC mentor.

Award Criteria

The recipient will be an SSWLHC member and demonstrate:

- Commitment to the field of Education and/or professional *mentorship* in the field of Social Work
- Contributes to the body of knowledge through scholarship, research, teaching, or otherwise developing concepts and skills
- Offer opportunities for growth and development for social workers in their role as formal or informal leaders in social work in health care.
- Plans for, develops, and evaluates social work professional development and student field instruction in health care
- Mentors emerging and established social work leader colleagues within health care settings.