

2026 Kansas Recovery Conference Awards Nomination Packet

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Nominations are due by (Friday) April 24th, 2026 !

Please complete one or more of the following forms and mail/email to:

Recovery Conference Award Nominations
c/o Melissa Patrick
PO Box 56
Wichita, KS 67201
Email: melissapattick@kansascac.org
Cell: 316.312.3479



Nominations must be submitted by FRIDAY, APRIL 24th, 2026 for consideration

The Innovative Program Award

This award recognizes a program that is “cutting edge” and enhances recovery.

Programs eligible must meet the following criteria:

1. Must have originated in Kansas.
2. Be a new program within the past two (2) years.
3. Focus upon enhancing recovery.
4. Be worthy of upholding as a model.

Unity Award

This award recognizes those who have successfully united consumers and non-consumers for enhancement of their recovery in a cooperative manner. Nominations for this award will be accepted from consumer-run organizations, mental health centers, clubhouse programs, individual consumers, and mental health treatment providers.

NOTE TO TREATMENT PROVIDERS AND TREATMENT PROVIDING AGENCIES: As a mental health provider, in order to consider an individual’s story as a nomination for an award, a release form is required and must be signed by the nominee and included with the nomination form. Nominations from treatment providers that do not include release forms may not be considered and will be returned.

Su & Dennis Budd Exemplary Life Award

This award was initiated to honor two very special consumers whose leadership and advocacy efforts have shaped the consumer experience in Kansas. This annual award is given to a consumer whose energy and spirit stands out and who encourages and inspires others on their recovery journey.

Persons eligible must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a Kansas consumer.
2. Demonstrate outstanding service to Kansas consumers, locally, or statewide.
3. Promote the values and ideals of recovery.

Chamberlain-Rapp Exemplary Leadership Award

The Chamberlain-Rapp Exemplary Leadership Award is given annually to a mental health provider who has exhibited outstanding leadership skills on behalf of Kansas consumers and the recovery movement in the state.

Persons eligible must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a Kansas mental health service provider.
2. Demonstrate outstanding service on behalf of Kansas consumers, locally, or statewide.
3. Promote the values and ideals of recovery.

Heidi Brandenberger Servant Leadership Award

This annual award is in honor of a very special person whose selfless work behind the scenes, available shoulder to lean on, and unwavering devotion to the consumer movement has helped many on their recovery journey. This award is given to a person who gives without expectation, whose presence lends strength and dignity to others, and who never doubts ‘we can do it’, inspiring leadership from those who thought they could never lead.

Persons eligible must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a Kansas resident.
2. Demonstrate servant leadership to or on behalf of Kansas consumers, locally or statewide.
3. Promote the values and ideals of recovery.

Gary J. Parker Dedication, Leadership and Friendship Award

Given annually to a consumer who exhibits the following qualities:

1. Promoting the cause of human dignity
2. Commitment to the consumer movement
3. Bringing partnerships and people together
4. Inspires others to act/adventure “outside the box”
5. Dedicated volunteerism

Certified Peer Specialist of the Year Award

Awarded annually to a Certified Peer Specialist who has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty. This person is an excellent model of the recovery principles. The person who received the Certified Peer Specialist of the Year Award has done exceptional work with helping peers with mental health and/or substance use disorders on their journey, while moving forward in their own recovery.

Persons eligible must meet the following criteria:

- Be employed as a Certified Peer Specialist in Kansas.
- Upholds the ethics and standards of a Certified Peer Specialist.
- Models the principles of recovery.
- Goes above and beyond the call of duty in serving their peers in recovery.

Excellence in Media Award

Recognizes journalists, media outlets, television and film programs who excel in their coverage and portrayal of mental health issues in the news and entertainment media.

The eligibility criteria for this award includes:

1. The individual or business must be in the State of Kansas.
2. Nominee should help further education and stigma reduction through their coverage and portrayal of mental health issues.

Kansas Businesses that Care Award

This award is given to a business that promotes the mental health of its employees, stakeholders and community.

Businesses eligible must meet the following criteria:

1. The business must operate in Kansas.
2. Business practices and policies should reflect the promotion of mental health for employees, stakeholders, and community.

iLead Award

The iLead award celebrates the life of a youth or young adult who has served their peers through mental health advocacy and education in an effort to further recovery and fight stigma.

Persons eligible must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a consumer living in the State of Kansas
2. Age 25 years or younger
3. Demonstrate outstanding service to their peers through their efforts in advocacy and education

You may attach additional sheets as needed for award nominations.



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2026 INNOVATIVE PROGRAM AWARD

Nomination Form

This award recognizes a program that is “cutting edge” and enhances recovery.

Programs eligible must meet the following criteria:

1. Must have originated in Kansas.
2. Be a new program within the past two (2) years.
3. Focus upon enhancing recovery.
4. Be worthy of upholding as a model.

Name of Innovative Program being nominated and, if applicable, the sponsoring agency/organization

(i.e. Healthy Hearts Group at KS town Center/CRO) _____

- Address _____
- City/State/Zip _____
- Phone _____
- Email _____

Person making nomination:

- Name: _____
- Address _____
- City/State/Zip _____
- Phone _____
- Email _____

Describe the program below and how it enhances recovery:

(If more space is needed additional pages may be submitted. Please use black or blue ink, not marker or pencil, to complete nomination forms.)

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2026 UNITY AWARD

Nomination Form

This award recognizes those in Kansas who have successfully united consumers and non-consumers for enhancement of their recovery in a cooperative manner. Nominations for this award will be accepted from consumer-run organizations, mental health centers, clubhouse programs, individual consumers, and mental health treatment providers.

Person Making Nomination _____

Contact Information (address, phone, email) _____

Name, organization (if applicable), and contact information for those you are nominating:

▪ Person/Organization _____

Address/Phone/ Email _____

▪ Person/Organization _____

Address/Phone/ Email _____

▪ Person/Organization _____

Address/Phone/ Email _____

▪ Person/Organization _____

Address/Phone/ Email _____

Please use the next page to describe how these people unite consumers and non-consumers to promote recovery. If you need more space please add another sheet of paper. Please use black or blue ink, not marker or pencil, to complete nomination forms.

Nominations must be submitted by FRIDAY, APRIL 24th, 2026 for consideration

Lined writing area with horizontal lines and a double border.

Nominations must be submitted by FRIDAY, APRIL 24th, 2026 for consideration

2026 CHAMBERLAIN-RAPP EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Nomination Form

The Chamberlain-Rapp Recovery Champion Award is given annually to a mental health provider who has exhibited outstanding leadership skills on behalf of Kansas consumers and the recovery movement in the state.

Name of Person being Nominated _____

Organization that Employs Person Nominated _____

Organization Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email address _____

Person making nomination _____

◇ Phone _____ Email _____

◇ Address _____

◇ City/State/Zip _____

Describe the program below and how it enhances recovery:

(If more space is needed additional pages may be submitted, please do not write on the back.. Please use black or blue ink, not marker or pencil, to complete nomination forms.)

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2026 GARY J. PARKER DEDICATION, LEADERSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP AWARD

Nomination Form

This award is in honor of Gary J. Parker for his devoted dedication and volunteerism in promoting individual rights and active participation for those living with a mental illness. This award is presented annually to a consumer who exhibits the following qualities:

1. Promoting the cause of human dignity
2. Commitment to the consumer movement
3. Bringing partnerships and people together
4. Inspires others to act/adventure "outside the box"
5. Dedicated volunteerism

Contact Person _____

Contact Person Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name of Person Being Nominated _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please describe how the person you are nominating meets the criteria for this award. If more space is needed additional pages may be submitted, please do not write on the back. (Please use black or blue ink, not marker or pencil, to complete nomination forms.)

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2026 iLEAD AWARD

Nomination Form

The iLead award celebrates the life of a youth or young adult who has served their peers through mental health advocacy, awareness, and education in an effort to further recovery and fight stigma.

Persons eligible must meet the following criteria:

- Be a consumer in the State of Kansas aged 25 years or younger.

Contact Person _____

Contact Person Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Person Being Nominated _____ **Age** _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please describe how this person exemplifies leadership among their peers through advocacy, bringing awareness or educating others to fight stigma and further recovery in their community. If more space is needed additional pages may be submitted, please do not write on the back. (Please use black or blue ink, not marker or pencil, to complete nomination forms.)

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