

# Dr. William Schaffner Public Health Hero Award

## Description

The Dr. William Schaffner Award is a joint award from the Tennessee Medical Association and the Tennessee Public Health Association presented biennially to a person who has made significant contribution in advancing public health in Tennessee. Nominees could be someone who has made a career of public health with work that spans many years or someone who was instrumental in working on a critical public health issue of a shorter nature. Dr. Schaffner, a true public health hero, exemplifies the characteristics of the individual to whom the award will be presented.

There is no specific criteria for the award other than that the individual must have shown extraordinary efforts in improving public health in Tennessee. The award is not limited to a particular public health profession.

## Nominating Instructions

Write a letter nominating a person you feel embodies the best example of a true public health hero. Use the following questions as your guide when describing their qualifications/contributions. Points will be assigned per the range below, and the nominees with the most points will be further evaluated by a selection committee comprised of TMA and TPHA board members who will choose one recipient for the joint award. Include in your letter the name of nominee and your name (TPHA member making the nomination).

Deadline to submit nominations is March 19, 2025. Submit nominating letters to Kim Harrell at [khharrell@tnpublichealth.org](mailto:khharrell@tnpublichealth.org)

Reviewers will consider a nominee's qualifications and assign points within the corresponding ranges accordingly.

Application Questions	Criteria
<b>Ongoing contributions to the field of public health</b>  0 to 100 Points Possible	Award points based upon the ongoing commitment and involvement of the nominee to improving the health of the citizens of Tennessee. Nominee should be directly and effectively involved in the identification of issues/problems and developing solutions which relate specifically to public health.
<b>Clearly articulated outcomes</b>  0 to 100 Points Possible	Award points based on the importance of the issues identified and solutions reached in relation to the improvement in public health. Award higher points for clearly articulated outcomes not easily achieved and those that should be sought by other health professionals in similar situations.
<b>Projecting Leadership</b>  0 to 100 Points Possible	Award points based on how the applicant projected leadership to effect a positive change in critical public health issues. Award higher points for changes that improved the quality of public health practice and were built using collaborative efforts that included input from public health professionals and others involved with the practice of medicine.

<b>Professional Achievements</b>  0 to 100 Points Possible	Award points based on the relevancy of the applicant's achievements to the William Schaffner award. Award more points for achievements that increased the knowledge of others and less for routine activities expected in the course of their daily work.
<b>Memberships and Professional Associations</b>  0 to 100 Points Possible	Consider the number of organizations and their relevancy to the Schaffner award and/or the health of the community as a whole.