Annual BCBSM Community Service Awards
and Silver Key Coalition Awards

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has a long history of honoring people across the state who are exceptional advocates for our state’s seniors. The Silver Key Coalition is a group of organizations committed to making Michigan a no-wait-state for senior in-home services. Together, we ask you to help us find and recognize these outstanding advocates. We are accepting nominations for awards given to two individuals and three organizations you feel should be recognized for their community service.

Visit BCBSM.com/awards to apply online or to print additional nomination forms.
Nomination deadline is August 3, 2019
Tess Canja Innovation Award

The Silver Key Coalition Tess Canja Innovation Award is given to social service agencies that have implemented innovative approaches to improve social determinants of health for older adults.

This award was named in honor of Tess Canja who has been a life-long advocate for older adults. The top three award winners are selected by a committee of statewide volunteers based on the creativity, cost effectiveness, replicability, and quantified positive impact demonstrated by their innovative approach to service delivery.

The first place award winner will receive a $2,000 donation. Two additional $500 donations will be given to the next two highest-scoring nominees.

Nomination Criteria

Awards are given to non-profit in-home service providers for older adults are eligible to apply.

Claude D. Pepper Award

The Claude D. Pepper Award is presented annually to two outstanding senior citizen advocates who demonstrate a strong concern for the special needs of the elderly. The award is named after the late U.S. congressman who campaigned for senior citizens’ rights. Two individuals are selected — a retiree volunteer over age 55 and another person of any age who’s employed in the senior advocacy field whose work or volunteer activities have a positive effect on the lives of older adults.

Each award recipient will receive a $1,000 donation for the senior-advocacy nonprofit organization of his or her choice. Candidates for this award will have clearly demonstrated their dedication to Michigan’s seniors through work that benefits older adults, particularly those who don’t receive adequate health services due to mental, physical, financial or geographical limitations.

Nomination Criteria

• Awards are given to individuals, not groups or teams of people. However, you may nominate a person for individual work on behalf of a group to which your nominee belongs.

• We define volunteers as people who freely choose to provide a service that contributes to the well-being of an individual or a community.

• Nominees can be paid workers; however, we’re looking for efforts that go above and beyond job responsibilities.

• The candidate must have performed the services in the state of Michigan.

• Elected political officeholders are not eligible.
Tess Canja Award Application

1. AASA in-home service program(s) provided by agency (check all that apply):
   - Personal Care
   - Homemaking
   - Home Delivered Meals
   - Adult Day Care
   - Care Management
   - Chore/Minor Home Repair
   - Respite
   - Medication Management
   - Personal Emergency Response

2. Describe an innovation or best practice your organization has implemented to address social determinants of health for the older adult population or family caregivers. Indicate what social determinant(s) of health your innovation addresses. (Limit response to one page). Innovations or best practices could be new or ongoing activities including, but not limited to, creating new supplemental programs or benefits, incorporation of new technologies, developing creative partnerships, or securing financial or in-kind support for a program.

3. Describe the impact that your organization’s innovation or best practice has had on older adults’ health outcomes. Limit response to one page.
   The impact of your innovation could be quantified by identifying changes in healthcare utilization rates, how program costs were lowered, how much money was saved, client self-reported health indicators, functional improvement, or how costs grew less than expected, etc.
   If your innovation/best practice has not been fully implemented and evaluated, applicants can project the anticipated impact.

Claude D. Pepper Award Application

1. Is the nominee working or retired?

2. What is the nominee’s role in providing paid or unpaid service to older adults?

3. How many people are affected by the nominee’s leadership; and what amount of time does the nominee devote to this work?

4. What attributes indicate that the nominee is a leader? (For Example, describe the nominee’s ability to plan, organize and develop ideas or projects.)

5. How has the nominee demonstrated an attitude of caring toward older adults?

6. What are the nominee’s hopes and goals for enhancing the lives of older adults in the future?

7. What impact has the nominee’s service had on the quality of life of older adults? (Please give specific examples.)

8. How would the nominee’s absence negatively affect the lives of older adults?