



2024 Houston Champion of Inclusion Awards

The **Houston Champion of Inclusion (COIN) Awards** seeks to recognize and honor the contributions of individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations that are committed to promoting diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion throughout their organization and/or community. Nominees exemplify this commitment by showing demonstrated leadership in one or more of the following areas:

Individual Advocacy Awards

Celebrates the outstanding volunteer efforts of individuals dedicated toward improving opportunities in the disability community.

Person with a Disability or Disability Ally

- Recognizes individuals with disabilities, or allies without disabilities, who champion causes and issues of importance to Houstonians with disabilities.

Youth (12-26 years old)

- Celebrates youth leadership qualities that motivate others to become leaders and advocates for the disability community.

City of Houston Award

The award committee may, at its discretion, recognize one or more City of Houston departments or divisions for exemplary service to the disability community.

Employer Award*

- Recognizes organizations or businesses working to eliminate one or more employment barriers on behalf of the greater disability community.
- Leads in the hiring, retention, and promotion of employees with disabilities.
- Demonstrates a clear commitment and investment to lower the unemployment and underemployment rate among Houstonians with disabilities.

Nominees are not eligible for awards in any category if they are currently serving on the Houston Commission on Disabilities (HCOD), are currently employed by the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), or received the award within the last four years (2019-2023).



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****Eligibility Criteria for Employer Award***

- Organizations must be based in Houston; individuals must live, work, attend school, or worship, within the limits of the City of Houston.
- Both for-profit and nonprofit applicants must demonstrate a clear commitment to hiring, retaining, and promoting employees with disabilities within their organizations.
- Preference will be given to entities that include people with disabilities as part of their senior executive leadership teams, as well as in supervisory and managerial positions.
- Preference will be given to entities lead by, controlled, and/or managed by disabled leadership.
- Neither nonprofit nor for-profit entities shall hold a special wage certificate from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), or otherwise pay workers with disabilities less than the federal minimum wage under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Additional Guidelines for All Categories

- Award recipients will be required to attend a recognition event during the annual Disability Celebration on **September 20, 2024** at the Metropolitan Multi Service Center
- Award recipients may be asked to be available for media interviews.
- DEADLINE to submit nomination form: **September 1, 2024.**

The nomination forms must include:

- Nomination form (Mandatory)
- Letter of Support (Mandatory, two letters if self-nominating)
- Other supporting materials (Optional)

Your nomination form will not be processed for review until MOPD receives at least one letter of support. Optional supporting materials (e.g. resume, newspaper articles, etc.) can also be submitted. All documents must be emailed to mopdmail@houstontx.gov.

Please include the nominator's first and last name on the subject line along with the following "COIN Awards" (Example John Doe - COIN Awards).

All required and optional application materials must be submitted by the application deadline of September 1, 2024.

Please contact MOPD for any questions or assistance:

Email: mopdmail@houstontx.gov Phone: 832.394.0814



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Nomination Form

Nominator Name _____

Nominator Email _____

Nominator Phone Number _____

Which category is your nomination for?

Advocacy - Person with a Disability

Advocacy - Ally

Advocacy - Youth (12-26 years old)

Employment

City of Houston

Nominee Information: Individual, Business, or COH Department

Name _____

Point of Contact (Business or COH Dept) _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

Please describe the ways this nominee is a champion for inclusion:
