

2024 CAK Awards Information

Awards Overview

A nominator must be a staff member or board member of a Kentucky Community Action Agency. Submissions will be reviewed by the Program Committee.

Nominations Due May 1st.

Awards:

- Altha Jo Hamilton Volunteer Award
- Innovation in Community Action Award
- Jesse Amburgey Excellence in Community Action Award
- Heart Of Kentuckian Award
- Community Action Legacy (Honoring individuals who have dedicated 50 or more years to their agency)

Award Winners will be announced at the Annual Conference Awards Lunch on Thursday, June 13th at noon.

Questions? Contact katlyn@capky.org

Altha Jo Hamilton Volunteer Award

The Altha Jo Hamilton Volunteer Award honors the spirit and achievement of someone who has embraced the power of volunteerism as an opportunity to improve lives. There is no better way to serve and connect with your community than to give back. This award is named in memory of someone who chose to give back selflessly and promoted Community Action in those endeavors.

Nominees should excel at advancing Community Action through volunteering or by going beyond the scope of their employment.

Nominations are open to any volunteer, employee or board member of a local community action agency.

About Altha Jo Hamilton (d.1985)

Altha Jo Hamilton dedicated seventeen years to Community Action in Kentucky. After learning about Community Action as a recipient of their services, she began working at Central Kentucky Community Action Council in 1968. Mastering many skills at the agency, she was named Assistant Director in 1980, providing a shining example of the power of Community Action.

Through her enthusiastic participation on the Community Action Kentucky Issues and Advocacy Committee, Altha Jo Hamilton exhibited great strength of character, even facilitating citizen involvement by others in shaping public policies and decisions. During the 1982 Kentucky General Assembly legislative session, she played a key role in passing the legislation that authorized Community Action in Kentucky.

She was determined to promote the welfare of Community Action Agencies in Kentucky and those economically disadvantaged Kentuckians served by the agencies. She worked arduously as Board Chairwoman for Community Action Kentucky and was a frequent representative to the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies.

Innovation Award

The Innovation Award seeks to recognize innovative solutions within the Community Action Network. Winning Innovation will receive a check for \$1000.

Examples:

- Utilize a creative solution to solve an identified community need;
- Focus on doing things differently internally or externally of agency;
- Take new idea and implement it successfully with measurable outcomes;
- Seek to collaborate within their agency or with local nonprofits, businesses, or governmental organizations

Judging:

Judging will be based on a combination of innovation's:

- Uniqueness
- Out of the box
- Demonstrated results
- Innovative in place within approximately the last 12-18 months.

Nomination Process:

Nominees can be for an individual, team, or agency within Kentucky's Community Action Network. Examples of team nominees could be: Weatherization Department, Senior Center, or Human Resources Department.

Agencies may self-nominate or be nominated by another agency. An agency can receive multiple nominations for varying innovations.

Jesse Amburgey Excellence in Community Action Award

The Jesse Amburgey Excellence in Community Action Award honors the efforts and achievements of someone who has worked diligently to reduce or eliminate the causes or conditions of poverty. It is named in memory of a tireless champion for Community Action whom passionately believed in the power of people and communities helping themselves and one another.

Nominees should excel at advancing community action through their efforts at the local, state or national level.

Nominations are open to any employee or board member of a local community action agency.

About Jesse Amburgey (d.2006)

Jesse Amburgey dedicated twenty-six years to advancing the causes of Community Action. From 1968 to 1974 he led the LKLP Community Action Council as Executive Director, giving a voice to the voiceless and helping create programs that boosted employment and self-sufficiency in Leslie, Knott, Letcher and Perry Counties of Kentucky.

In 1974, becoming the first Executive Director of Community Action Kentucky (formerly known as the Kentucky Association for Community Action), Jesse Amburgey was instrumental in overseeing the beginning of Community Action Agencies administering the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. During his tenure at CAK, he also contributed to the innovation of the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), designed to help rural communities procure safe and sanitary drinking water and sewage systems.

Jesse Amburgey served on a variety of state, regional and national boards, including Board Member, National Association of Community Action Agencies; Board Member, National Community Action Foundation; and President, Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies.

Heart Of Kentuckian Award

Heart of Kentuckian award is a chance to acknowledge the exceptional work of Community Action staff across the network. All nominees will all be recognized with a certificate. Winner will be awarded a \$100 Gift Card.

Nominees should make a demonstrable difference in such areas as advocacy for clients, case management, program development, administration, or contribute to a positive image for Community Action.

Nominations are open to all non-managerial/leadership staff.

Community Action Legacy

Honoring individuals who have dedicated 50 or more years of service to their agency. All nominees will all be recognized.

Nominations can be submitted by any employee or board member of a local Community Action Agency.