



As part of fulfilling its mission of “advocating for local health departments,” The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) seeks to recognize outstanding accomplishments related to advocacy and outreach to Members of the United States Congress and/or state legislators to better health policy outcomes in calendar year 2026.

Many factors go into policymaking decisions. Successful advocacy does not necessarily mean Congress changed or implemented a policy. A successful advocate may raise visibility of public health issues, develop a meaningful relationship with a lawmaker or their staff, and/or become a trusted messenger and resource in public health matters. Lawmakers rely on their staff and constituents like local health officials to educate them on policy in order to craft legislation that keeps Americans healthy and safe.

How to Apply

To submit your nomination for this award, please complete this three-page PDF application and email a copy, with any additional supportive materials, to membership@naccho.org.

The 2026 application period is open from Monday, December 15, 2025, to Thursday, January 22, 2026.

The deadline to submit is Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST.

The award recipient will be selected in the spring and recognized at the 2026 NACCHO360 conference, July 14-17 in Louisville, KY.

Eligibility & Submission Requirements

- There is no application fee.
- Eligible applicants are any local health department staff.
- NACCHO members may nominate another NACCHO member or themselves.
- Applicants are asked to provide a detailed yet concise description (500 words maximum) of their advocacy work to address public health issues at the federal and/or state level.

Though not required, strong applications should include example(s) or documentation of one or more of the following, as well as any progress or positive outcomes:

Virtual Activities

- Sent a NACCHO-prepared email to a Member of Congress. (This can be through NACCHO’s Congressional Action Network Alerts.)
- Wrote and sent a personalized letter to a Member of Congress or a member of State Legislature.
- Talked with Congressional or State legislative Staff by phone.
- Engaged with a public social media platform with a Member of Congress or State legislator.
- Wrote an op-ed in a local or national publication promoting the work of public health.
- Responded to an inquiry from their National or State elected officials.

Meeting Activities

- Met with a Member of Congress and/or Congressional staff at their Washington, D.C. office.
- Met with a Member of Congress and/or Congressional staff in their district office.
- Met with a member of their state legislature.
- Testified in front of a legislative body.
- Participated in a briefing for elected officials.

Impact

- What resulted from your advocacy activities in the way of public health policy change at the local, state, or national level?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: membership@naccho.org | 877.533.1320

1) First, tell us about you:

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Credentials:	
Job Title:	
Health Department:	
Street Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

2) Now, tell us about the person/agency you are nominating:

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Credentials:	
Job Title:	
Health Department:	
Health Department Size:	
Street Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

- 3) Please provide a comprehensive and succinct overview (up to 500 words) of the advocacy efforts undertaken to address public health challenges at the federal level. Include a summary of the outcomes achieved or progress made.**

[Empty response box for item 3]

- 4) Please attach any supporting documents to your application via email.**