

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Society for Social Work and Research

2026 Community-Research Partnership Award

Sponsored by Cognella Publications

The Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Community-Research Partnership Award recognizes collaborative research between social work researchers and community partners, who work together to advance community science and address complex social problems. This award aligns with SSWR's value of rigorous research that promotes a just and equitable society. This partnership-driven approach is vital in advancing community science and addressing the multifaceted social challenges of our time.

SSWR defines a **community partner** as someone who: (1) does not primarily perform research- or evaluation-related duties as part of their job; (2) are not employed by a research-focused organization or university; and (3) are not employed by a federal government agency. The community partner does not need to be a SSWR member.

Researchers eligible for this award must be social work researchers with a doctoral degree, employed by a School of Social Work. They must also be SSWR members.

One award will be given to a research partnership that includes a social work researcher(s) and a community partner(s).

Nominations for the award must include:

- A current CV (for the lead social work researcher) and a resume (for the lead individual from the community partner), including their current address, phone number, and email address.
- A nomination letter describing the nature of the collaboration and the accomplishments of the collaborative research conducted by the team, particularly the contributions to advancing our understanding of and solutions to complex social problems and furthering social justice. The nomination letter should:
 - Provide a persuasive rationale for why the nominees merit consideration for the award
 - Identify the lead social work researcher and lead community partner and their roles on the community-research partnership team
 - Discuss how the research is co-created, and decisions are shared
 - Describe the community partner organization and its role in the community impacted by the collaborative research project
 - Describe the origin and history of the partnership
 - Describe the team's collaborative research and how it impacts both the quality of the partnership and the scholarship
 - Articulate the impact of this team approach that might not have been realized if either had attempted to address the issue outside of the partnership,

- Discuss how the partners have engaged the community or population impacted by the research problem in the research process
- Describe the scholarly and community-facing products and presentations that have come out of this partnership, including their community and/or societal impact
 - Please provide a list of the products and presentations that are co-produced by the social work researcher and the community partner
- Discuss how the partnership has been sustained over time
- The letter must also include each nominator's name, address, phone number and email address.
- Please also submit pictures (high-res JPEG) of the nominees.

The SSWR Board has set a policy that no sitting member of the Board may be nominated for this award. Nominators may only nominate one nominee for this award. Self-nominations are encouraged.

All nominations will be evaluated according to the following criteria

Quality of the community-research partnership

- Mutually defined and clear roles for the social work researcher(s) and community partner team(s)
- Shared decision-making, joint planning, and co-creation throughout the research process
- Engagement and active involvement of the affected community in shaping and conducting the research, including identifying the problem(s) and research goals, and in implementation, analysis, and dissemination
- Strengthens community-university research partnerships and benefits both sides
- Positively impacts the community and the academic institution

Quality of the scholarship:

- Addresses a significant and meaningful issue that is relevant to the community
- Uses strong theoretical foundations and an innovative or rigorous research design
- High quality and/or innovative data analysis and interpretation
- Direct and clear application to social work community practice and social justice
- Evidence of dissemination through academic and community facing formats

The SSWR Community-Research Partnership Award will be given at the 2026 conference in Washington, DC. **All nominations must be received by August 18, 2025.**

Nomination materials should be sent electronically to:

Kristen Reamy: Membership and Awards Coordinator Society for Social Work and Research:
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