

# Innovation in Corrections Award



2025

At the 126<sup>th</sup> Congress of Correction in Nashville, Tennessee, ACA established an exciting honor, the Innovation in Corrections Award, to be given to a deserving program serving adult or juvenile offenders. The purpose of this award is to broaden the knowledge of successful program interventions throughout ACA and to annually recognize an outstanding correctional program.

**Nominations must be received at ACA's headquarters by July 1, 2024.** Nominees must address each criterion in full, and the awardee must satisfactorily document compliance with each criterion. Nominations must include an endorsement signature by the chief executive officer or governing body. ACA members may nominate programs. Please provide your membership number below.

**Entry Rules**

Entries should include the following information:

- The nomination form.
- A summary addressing each award criterion, not to exceed three single-spaced pages. (Please remember to submit only three pages — this rule will be strictly enforced. Since the Awards Committee will be looking for superior performance in the criteria noted on the entry forms, it will help your case to organize the presentation around those criteria).
- One set of relevant supporting documentation.
- Eligibility screening sheet (Attached).

**Award Criteria**

Each program nominated for the Innovation in Corrections Award must demonstrate compliance with the following:

- The program must have a clear and specific purpose, stated in a formal mission statement.
- The program must have specific and measurable goals and objectives.
- The program must be currently operating and have met its stated objectives for at least two consecutive years.
- Outcome measures must show a high rate of completion and/or sustained success.
- The program must be effective and creative in addressing a specific offender problem or need and be consistent with ACA policies and principles.
- The program must be replicable in other jurisdictions.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Any program serving adult or juvenile offenders that can demonstrate success in operations in one or more of the following areas:

- Reducing the offender rate of return.
- Increasing the offenders' educational levels.
- Increasing the marketability for employment of offenders once released.
- Increasing the cognitive and life skills of offenders.
- Integrating the family into treatment.

*Note: In order to determine whether your program is eligible, please complete an "Eligibility Screening Sheet (next page)," and include a copy with your nomination package. This screening sheet must be included in order to make the nomination complete.*

## 2025 Innovation in Corrections Award Nomination Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_

(name/member number/telephone number/email address)

would like to nominate the following program for the Innovation in Corrections Award

Program name: \_\_\_\_\_

Program director: \_\_\_\_\_

Description and scope of program: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Name of Program: \_\_\_\_\_

## ACA Innovation in Corrections Award Eligibility Screening Sheet

**Note: For use by the Correctional Awards Committee for determining Innovation in Corrections Award nominee eligibility prior to the evaluation of eligible nominees. This screening sheet may also be helpful to prospective nominators in determining whether theirs is a viable candidate for this prestigious award.**

**Part A: The award nominee program must serve either adult or juvenile offenders and comply with at least one of the following five requirements to be eligible for consideration.**

*Note: The objectivity and independence of the research or basis for claims of success will be an important consideration in granting the award. Please check all that apply:*

1. Yes  The award nominee program claims demonstrated success in reducing offender rate of return.
2. Yes  The award nominee program claims demonstrated success at increasing the offender's educational level.
3. Yes  The award nominee program claims demonstrated success at increasing the marketability for employment of offenders once released.
4. Yes  The award nominee program claims demonstrated success at increasing the cognitive and life skills of offenders.
5. Yes  The award nominee program claims demonstrated success at integrating the family into treatment.

**Part B: Program award candidate must comply with Part A and meet all six of the following requirements to be eligible.**

1. The program has a clear and specific purpose that is stated in a formal mission statement.  
Yes  Proceed to number 2                      No  Nominee is ineligible
2. The program has specific and measurable goals and objectives.  
Yes  Proceed to number 3                      No  Nominee is ineligible
3. The program is currently operating and has met its stated objectives for at least two consecutive years.  
Yes  Proceed to number 4                      No  Nominee is ineligible
4. The program outcome measures show a high rate of completion and/or sustained success.  
Yes  Proceed to number 5                      No  Nominee is ineligible
5. The program is effective in addressing the specific offender problem or need identified under Part A above in a manner consistent with ACA policies and principles.  
Yes  Proceed to number 6                      No  Nominee is ineligible
6. The program can be replicated in other jurisdictions.  
Yes  Apply objective scoring procedure      No  Nominee is ineligible