



CHICA-HANDIC - OUT OF THE BOX AWARD

Background:

The purpose of this award is to honour the candidate for outstanding creativity in the management and resolution of a particular infection prevention and control (IPAC) issue or in the development and initiation of an innovative or ingenious educational project. This award is not a research proposal.

The “Out of the Box Award” was founded by Diane Thornley upon her retirement. Diane was a long time IPAC practitioner and one of the founding members of CHICA-Canada and CHICA-HANDIC.

The successful candidate will receive \$250.00 to be spent any way she/he chooses.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Candidates and recipients of this award must be CHICA-HANDIC members in “good standing” (paid dues, regular meeting attendance). Refer to CHICA and CHICA-HANDIC terms of reference for specifics.
2. The award is for the creative application or problem-based approach (in the previous 12 months) to one or more of the following:
 - Implementing or effecting change related to basic IPAC practice
 - Implementing or effecting change related to implementation of guidelines or best practice
 - Educating staff, patients/clients/residents in various health care settings or educating the public about IPAC
 - Solving a specific IPAC issue or problem encountered in a health care setting

Application Process

1. The application is due November 1. (Note: Each September, CHICA-HANDIC members will be reminded about the November application deadline)
2. The “Out of the Box Award” information is posted on the CHICA-HANDIC website: <http://www.chica.org/handic/index.html>
3. The candidate must submit the following:
 - a. 1 page (maximum 250 words), in point form, describing the creative project or problem based approach and examples of positive outcomes (as applicable)
 - b. A separate page containing the candidate’s contact information.
4. The candidate will forward the application and contact information to the Chair of the awards committee by e-mail by the due date (as above).
5. If the application does not meet the criteria of the award, the candidate will be informed and invited to reapply.
6. Any applications received after the due date will not be considered.
7. In instances when the award is being applied for by a group of people or a team, a lead name must be designated for communication purposes with the awards committee. If a “team” is successful, then the lead is responsible to identify all team members who were involved in the project and ensure the award is equitably distributed.



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8. Multiple submissions by the same participant are discouraged.
9. Only one project is permitted on a submission.

Award Process

1. The awards committee will be comprised of 2 members of the current executive and 3 other members at large. Candidates who have submitted are not permitted to be evaluators in the same year as the submission. The application will be reviewed by the awards committee to ascertain if it meets the awards criteria.
2. The awards committee will present the blinded copy of the 1 page application form at the CHICA-HANDIC November meeting. Note: There must be a quorum (as per CHICA-HANDIC Terms of Reference) for the award to be presented, voting to transpire, and a winner to be declared. If a tie occurs, then voting must continue until a winner emerges. If there is no quorum, then the awards process will stop and resume at the next meeting where quorum is attained.
3. The announcement of the winner will be presented at the same meeting by the founder of the award or by the Chair of the awards committee. At that same meeting, the winner will then give a short presentation about their “Out of the Box” project and respond to questions and answers from the membership.
4. The winner will receive the monetary award from the CHICA-HANDIC Treasurer. In instances where a “team” has been successful, the monetary award will be issued to the designated lead indicated on the application form.
5. The name of the successful recipient (or recipients in the case of a “team” success) will be posted on the CHICA-HANDIC website to remain in perpetuity.

Voting Criteria

| Criteria | Possible Point Value |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. The issue/problem/education is IPAC specific. | 5 |
| 2. The project was creative and innovative. | 5 |
| 3. An effective resolution or outcome was evident (such as a change in staff behaviour) | 5 |
| 4. The project is credible, valid and reliable | 5 |
| 4. There was a unique solution or angle to the problem/issue | 5 |
| Possible Total Value | 25 |