

THE HEALTH PROJECT

PRESENTS

The 2025 C. Everett Koop National Health Awards

Recognizing organizations with evidence-based programs designed to improve workforce health and achieve meaningful business results. For more information or to begin your organization's application online at no charge visit: www.thehealthproject.com

About Dr. C. Everett Koop

Dr. C. Everett Koop (1916-2013) was an American pediatric surgeon and public health administrator. He was a vice admiral in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and served as the 13th Surgeon General of the United States under President Ronald Reagan from 1982 to 1989. Dr. Koop became a household name during his tenure and is widely regarded as the most influential Surgeon General in American history. During his term, he played a crucial role in changing public attitudes about smoking and advocating for a smoke-free America.

Dr. Koop spent most of his career as a practicing physician. For 35 years, from 1946 to 1981, he was pediatric surgeon-in-chief at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and in 1956, he established the nation's first neonatal surgical intensive care unit. While a surgeon in Philadelphia, Dr. Koop performed groundbreaking surgical procedures on conjoined twins, invented techniques that today are commonly used for infant surgery, and saved the lives of countless children.

Established in 1994 with Dr. Koop as co-founder and Honorary Chairperson, The Health Project has awarded annual prizes to organizations with compelling evidence of meaningful improvements in health and well-being and organizational outcomes. Dr. Koop was known as 'America's Doctor' and The Health Project will continue to present the annual C. Everett Koop National Health Award in his honor.

The Innovation Award

This year, The Health Project introduced a new award program: The Health Project Innovation Award.

This award recognizes employers who have introduced significant innovation into their organization's health and well-being programs, which show great potential to improve the overall health and well-being of their workforce.

To win the Innovation Award, applicants must present evidence showing their innovations have achieved their intended results for their entire workforce or on a pilot basis. Examples of innovations include, but are not limited to:

- Engaging hard-to-reach populations (e.g., remote, low-wage, older individuals, underserved population, highly dispersed, nontraditional worksites);
- Organizational culture change initiatives (e.g., creative leadership engagement, employee empowerment, community involvement, restructuring the built environment to optimize health and wellbeing);
- Developing new approaches and models to change health-related behavior;
- Addressing health equity (e.g., addressing social determinants of health, health disparities, health literacy, diversity/inclusion);
- Effective use of technology (e.g., medical and diagnostic, digital artificial intelligence, virtual reality, consumer experience, operations);
- Extending beyond the four walls of the organization (e.g., focusing on broader environmental, social, and economic factors); and
- Cross-functional organizational integration to promote a seamless employee experience to support health, well-being, and a psychologically safe/environmentally supportive work environment.

2025 Winner of The C. Everett Koop Innovation Award

University of Michigan MHealthy Resource Coach Program

The University of Michigan (U-M), a leading public research university with campuses in Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint, is recognized for its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and employee well-being. U-M is one of Michigan's largest employers, with over 57,000 faculty and staff, including those at Michigan Medicine.

Recognizing the value of a healthy workplace culture, U-M established MHealthy in 2009 to support employee well-being. MHealthy offers services focused on nutrition, physical activity, mental health, alcohol management, tobacco cessation and more – addressing a holistic view of health. Furthering its commitment, in 2021, U-M adopted the Okanagan Charter, pledging to take a holistic and sustainable approach to becoming a health-promoting university.

To address factors beyond individual health behaviors that influence overall health, MHealthy launched the Resource Coach Program (RCP) in 2020. Focused on employees in lower wage categories, the RCP connects U-M employees experiencing financial crises or personal hardships to both university and community services. Dedicated case managers help participants navigate critical challenges like housing, transportation, and utilities, and working to ensure stability at work and well-being. The program also provides financial assistance through minigrants and the Emergency Hardship Program.

Housed within MHealthy under U-M Human Resources, the RCP is integrated into the university's broader employee support and is better able to reduce barriers. It has expanded efforts to include food security supports, financial well-being programs, and physical activity program scholarships.

Results show positive impact: 93% of participants are satisfied with the program and 90% report that due to the RCP, they experienced a decrease in the impact that one of their unmet critical needs had on their life. The RCP has also contributed to a significant decrease in ER visit and cost trends among participants compared to non-participants.

With continued backing from leadership and an inclusive, strengths-based approach, the RCP will continue to create a supportive environment for all U-M employees.

2025 Honorable Mention Recipients of The C. Everett Koop Innovation Award

Baystate Health Well-being Essentials

A nearly 1,000-bed integrated health system in western Massachusetts, Baystate has reimagined employee well-being through a purpose-driven, strategic program for its 13,000 employees, already generating measurable health and business gains.

Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee Rejoice in Health

Recognized for its Rejoice in Health initiative, a personalized wellness program for approximately 53 clergy members. This innovative model addresses the unique challenges of an aging, geographically dispersed, and underserved population, ensuring sustained vitality for parish ministry across Northwest Florida.

Past Winners of the C. Everett Koop National Health Awards

Aetna, Inc.*

Alcon Laboratories

Alliance Data

AMERICAN Cast Iron Pipe Company

Applied Materials

Baylor College of Medicine

Boise School District

BP America Caterpillar

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Idaho National Laboratory

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Johnson & Johnson

L.L.Bean, Inc.* Lincoln Industries Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies

Marriott International Inc. McKesson Corporation Medical Mutual of Ohio

Motorola

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

Northeast Utilities O'Neal Industries, Inc.

Pacific Bell*

Park Nicollet Medical Foundation

Pepsi Bottling Group

Pfizer Inc.*
Pitney Bowes*
Prudential Financial
Quaker Oats Company
Quest Diagnostics

San Jose City Fire Department

Sentara Healthcare

SHIELDS for Families Project, Inc.

State of Nebraska Steelcase Inc.

Sunset Park Family Health Center

Network

Texas Instruments
The Volvo Group

Trigon Blue Cross Blue Shield

UAW - General Motors Union Pacific Railroad*

University of Alabama at Birmingham -

School of Education University of Michigan University of Vermont UNUM Corporation*

USAA

Vanderbilt University

WE Energies

Wisconsin Education Association (WEA)

*Multi-year Winner

Past Honorable Mention Recipients

Almoosa Specialist Hospital

American Express

Arc

AFSCME Council 31

AT&T

Baylor College of Medicine Berkshire Health Systems

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee

Blue Shield of California Burlington Northern Railroad

Carrel Fertilizer

Charleston Area Medical Centers

City of Birmingham

The Coca-Cola Company

Coors

Cornell University
Cummins Inc.
Dell Technologies
Delta Air Lines

DuPont Ericsson Inc.

First National Bank of Chicago Franklin Memorial Hospital

Graco

GE Fitness Center

HealthMedia/Care Management Institute

Health Partners Healthwise

Houston Independent School District

HPN WorldWide

Hughes Electronics Corp.

Hunter Industries

Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory IDEXX Laboratories Inc.

Indian Health Service

International Truck and Engine

Corporation

Kaiser Permanente*
Kal-Aero Incorporated

LG&E and KU Energy Lockton Companies

Lowe's Companies, Inc.

Maine General MetroHealth System

Metro Nashville Public Schools*

MBNA

Michelin Tire Corporation

Monterey County

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company* NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene New York Life Insurance Company North Bay Health Resources Center

Norton Healthcare*

The Ohio State University

PepsiCo*

Perdue Farms, Inc.*
Project Freedom
Roche, Inc.

Sandia National Laboratories*

San Mateo County Sentara Healthcare

Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Southeast Alaska Regional Health

Consortium

Stanford Five Cities Project

Tenneco The Travelers

Trek Bicycle Corporation
Union Bank & Trust*

Union of Pan Asian Communities

University of Iowa University of Kentucky University of Michigan University of Virginia

US Dept. Energy, Morgantown

Wachovia Corporation

Washoe County School District

*Multi-year Honorable Mention

The Health Project

MISSION

Define, promote, and increase the adoption of organizational health and well-being practices that translate into measurable operational impact.

VISION

Promote evidence-based health, and well-being practices that demonstrate how a high performing healthy workforce drives organizations, communities, and nations to thrive.

PURPOSE

Identify and advance strategies that amplify the value of workforce and community health and well-being.

VALUES

Integrity
Evidence
Continuous learning
Links to business outcomes

GOALS

- ✓ Recognize organizations that prioritize employee health and well-being.
- ✓ Identify and disseminate best practice strategies linked to improved employee health and well-being and positive business outcomes.
- ✓ Incorporate evolving practices as innovation occurs.
- ✓ Engage emerging health and well-being leaders and experts to join The Health Project and further The Health Project vision.

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