



2026 NHCAA AWARDS PROGRAM SPECIALTY BENEFITS INVESTIGATION OF THE YEAR NOMINATION CRITERIA

NHCAA invites nominations for the **2026 Specialty Benefits Investigation of the Year Award**. At times, and for various reasons, investigations do not lead to criminal or civil prosecution. They do, however, often result in significant policy and/or procedural changes. The purpose of this award is to recognize the substantial health care anti-fraud contributions made by plan investigation units particularly in specialty areas, regardless of whether a case results in legal action. As you prepare your nomination, we encourage you to visit the [2025 Award Winners](#) page to see examples of past award-winning cases.

Nomination Eligibility

This award is limited to NHCAA Member Organization or Affiliate Member (private sector) specialty benefit plans and insurers offering specialty benefit lines of business. For this award, specialty benefits are limited to behavioral health, dental, and vision.

- NHCAA [Member Organizations](#) or [Affiliate Members](#) are eligible to submit nominations.
- Nominated investigations must be in the final resolution stage (or have been resolved or closed) between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2026.
 - *NOTE: Investigative activity may have commenced prior to August 1, 2025, but the case must be ongoing during the aforementioned timeframe.*
- Nominated investigations must include individuals employed by an NHCAA Member Organization or Affiliate Member.

Selection Criteria and Scoring Weight

Selection of the winning nomination will be based on these criteria, but a submission need not meet every criterion to be considered.

- Scheme complexity (30%)
- Financial impact (15%)
- Impact or potential impact to patients' health or health records (15%)
- Creativity of Investigative Technique (20%)
- Meaningful/Measurable Outcomes (20%)

Submission Instructions

- Nominations may be submitted electronically via the [online nomination form](#) or by emailing the completed [PDF nomination form](#) to awards@nhcaa.org.
- An organization may submit multiple nominations.
- The deadline for nominations for the 2026 NHCAA Investigation of the Year Award is **Monday, July 13, 2026**.

If you have questions about the nomination or selection process, please contact NHCAA Awards Program at awards@nhcaa.org.