2026 Advocate Health Touchstone Awards

Touchstone Award Application

At this year's virtual **Advocate Health Touchstone Award Sharing Day on Oct. 21, 2026**, we are honoring and spotlighting your exceptional efforts to improve in the following areas:

Safety	Health Outcomes	Experience
Process improvements such as high reliability, HACs, infection prevention, medication reconciliation, teammate safety, error and rework prevention, risk reduction and preparedness, strengthening data privacy, etc.	Successful, evidence-based or innovative practices that positively impact health outcomes such as mortality rates, core measures, readmissions, diabetes, etc. as well as care coordination, patient access and engagement, etc.	Significant achievements related to patient and medical staff satisfaction scores, teammate engagement scores, including efforts aimed at communication, transparency, workplace wellbeing, etc.

Key Dates
Submit the Touchstone Award application by **June 30, 2026**. No deadline extensions will be given. Contact Ulrika.White@AdvocateHealth.org for questions regarding application submissions. Selected submissions will be asked to share their improvement work at our annual **Advocate Health Touchstone Award Sharing Day event held Oct. 21, 2026.**

Submission Requirements
Please be aware that only one file may be submitted. You will not be allowed to upload multiple documents for the same submission. Your submission should be no more than 7 pages in total, that includes the following:
- Cover Sheet – One page
- Detailed Project Summary – Four pages maximum, text description of the project
- Data & Graph Appendix – Two pages maximum, graphs and visuals with captions

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Touchstone Award Application

Any submissions over the 7-page maximum will be disqualified. The project work should be a recent project with a majority of the work concentrated in the last 24 months. Applications of previous Touchstone award winning projects are not eligible for submission.

1. **Cover Sheet** – Include a cover sheet that has the following:
   - Project Title
   - Team Members
   - Facility
   - Contact Information
     - Name
     - Title
     - Department
     - Telephone Number
     - Mailing Address
     - Email Address

2. **Detailed Entry** – Provide a well-organized, detailed description addressing each of the following areas. The weighted scoring contribution for each section is provided. The detailed entry should be no more than four pages using 12-point type.

Project Selection (10%)
   - Describe why this project or program was implemented, including a description of the specific problem that was addressed.
   - Describe how the project or program improves and supports the organization's Safety, Health Outcomes and Experience goals.
   - Articulate how this work will impact the experience of our patients and/or teammates.
   - Describe if, and how, this project/program addresses a specific health inequity within our patient population and/or community.

Goal (5%)
   - Describe the measurable goal(s) and objective(s) for this project, timelines for achievement, and include any benchmarks and evidence-based practice findings that influenced the development of the goal(s) and objective(s). (Example: 0 BSI infections, 99 percent of nurses follow bundle, 95 percent of X do Y, improve communication score from 80 percent top- box to 85.)

Improvement Process (30%)
   - Describe the performance improvement methodology as it applies to this project. Identify any changes tested and adopted.
   - Describe how the stakeholders were involved and the process employed for gaining buy-in to make change.
   - Describe the validation process used after the change the process was made to ensure measurable and statistically significant impact.
   - Describe what actions were taken to sustain and control the process post-implementation.

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Results/Outcomes (35%)
- Present the appropriate quantifiable results (your measures of success) for this project, in terms of improvements in availability, clinical outcomes, effectiveness, cycle time, continuity of services, process efficiency, financial impact or patient satisfaction.
- Provide data graphics that demonstrate the magnitude of the improvement from before to after. To receive all points, a project must present evidence that a statistically significant improvement was achieved. Data graphics can be shown in the detailed entry or in the appendix.
- Demonstrate how the goal was achieved and how the goal is and will be sustained. Provide any cost benefit analysis.

Innovation/Knowledge Sharing and Replicability (10% each)
Each application will be scored by judges on Innovation (10%) and Knowledge Sharing/Spread (10%). Information regarding these three items should be included throughout the application and not in separate sections. The judges will consider the following questions when awarding points for these categories:
- **Innovation/Evidence Based Practice:** Did it address a new or rarely studied topic or procedure, a novel approach to a common problem, development of new IT tools, or top-tier results beyond the existing benchmarks? Did the project integrate an evidence-based practice into a process to improve outcomes?
- **Knowledge Sharing/Replicability:** Could this project/program be leveraged to assist others with similar opportunities? Would spread of this work favorably impact our healthcare system or other healthcare systems?

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