

# IPEC COF Excellence in IPE Collaboration Award Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## What are the award criteria?

Applications are reviewed based on four key areas:

### 1. IPEC Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice

Projects should demonstrate collaboration that is:

- Person-, client-, and family-centered, with advocacy
- Focused on community/population health
- Relationship-based and team-oriented
- Organized and process-driven
- Connected to learning activities, teaching strategies, and assessment methods that are culturally and developmentally appropriate
- Applicable across the learning continuum
- Sensitive to systems and usable across settings and professions
- Communicated using shared, common language
- Clearly linked to measurable, outcomes-driven results

### 2. Scholarship and impact

Projects should:

- Advance interprofessional collaborative practice
- Focus on community and public health
- Address determinants of health
- Support better health for all through practice, education, or research

### 3. Community engagement and innovation

Projects should:

- Include meaningful participation from community partners or leaders
- Demonstrate cross-sector collaboration
- Show creativity and innovation that supports lasting impact
- Reflect clear community need and relevance

### 4. Team composition

- Teams must include faculty and students
- Must represent **two or more health professions**
- Must be based in an accredited college or university

## What are the honorable mention categories?

In addition to the overall award, honorable mentions may be selected in:

1. Health Communications and Health Technology
2. Behavioral Health
3. Public Health Infrastructure
4. Community Empowerment and Education
5. At-Risk and Vulnerable Communities

## How many applications are received?

Each year, approximately 8–12 applications are submitted.

## Why might an application not be selected?

Common reasons include:

- Outcomes are not clearly defined or measurable
- Lack of clear connection between interprofessional collaboration and results
- Insufficient interprofessional team representation (must include 2+ professions)
- Public health significance is unclear or not well supported
- Community need is not clearly described or lacks evidence
- Limited community involvement in defining or addressing the need
- Sustainability or long-term integration is not addressed
- Program relevance to community priorities is not clearly demonstrated

## Does the institution need to be an IPEC member to apply?

Yes. The submitting institution must be an **IPEC member institution** to be eligible for the award.

If you are unsure about your institution's membership status, please confirm internally or contact IPEC before submitting.

## Can I submit more than one application?

No. Each institution may submit **one application per cycle**.

For the purposes of this award, an *institution* refers to the **accredited college or university as a whole**, not individual schools, departments, or programs within it (e.g., a School of Nursing or College of Pharmacy).

Because multiple schools or units within the same university may have separate interprofessional projects, we encourage **internal coordination across programs** to select and submit the strongest single institutional application.

## Can international or global projects be submitted?

Yes. Submissions are welcome from **accredited institutions internationally**, as long as all eligibility requirements are met, including **IPEC institutional membership** and interprofessional criteria.

## Does my project need to be fully completed to apply?

No. Projects may be in development, implementation, or completed stages. However, applications should clearly describe outcomes to date and/or expected outcomes, along with how they will be measured.

## What counts as interprofessional collaboration?

Interprofessional collaboration must include **two or more health professions** working together in a meaningful way. Simply teaching another profession or working in parallel does not meet this requirement.

## Do community members need to be involved?

Yes. Strong applications include **meaningful community engagement**, such as:

- Helping define the need
- Participating in planning or implementation
- Contributing to evaluation or outcomes

## What should be included in outcomes?

Outcomes should be **clear, measurable, and connected to interprofessional collaboration**. Examples may include:

- Changes in learner or team behavior
- Patient, community, or population health improvements
- Program or system-level impact
- Improved access and outcomes across populations

## If my application is not selected, can I apply again?

Yes. Applicants are encouraged to revise and resubmit in future cycles as their work develops. This includes applicants who previously received an honorable mention but did not receive the overall award.

## Who can I contact with questions?

Please email: [award@ipecollaborative.org](mailto:award@ipecollaborative.org)

## Where can I learn more?

Visit: <https://www.ipecollaborative.org/ipe-collaborationaward.html>

