



Elevate FCS Award Guidelines **Deadline Posted on AAFCS Website**

The AAFCS Elevate FCS Award was introduced in 2025 and is designed to recognize and celebrate individuals, organizations, communities, programs, and supporters who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to elevating the Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) profession. This award seeks to honor those who have made significant contributions to advancing the value, impact, and visibility of FCS, whether through education, advocacy, community engagement, or innovation.

Applying for the Elevate FCS Award

- The applicant is nominated by the State Affiliate, Individual, or AAFCS Community or self-nominated. Each group may nominate one member for the award. If the national award is not received, applicants may be nominated again by their affiliate and submit the application materials.
- The Elevate FCS Award is open to the following categories:
 - FCS Professionals: Any individual working within the FCS field who has demonstrated excellence in elevating the profession.
 - Students: Any student pursuing studies within the FCS field who has shown leadership and dedication to promoting the value of FCS.
 - Affiliates & Communities: State Affiliates, or an AAFCS community that has made substantial contributions to the advancement of FCS.
 - Programs & Initiatives: FCS programs, workshops, or initiatives that have notably enhanced the reputation and visibility of FCS at local, state, or national levels.
 - Related Organizations & Supporters: Non-FCS entities or individuals (e.g., businesses, policy makers, philanthropists) whose support or collaboration has significantly elevated the FCS profession.
- Application materials are prepared by the applicant and must be submitted in English.
- Members of the AAFCS Board of Directors and Awards Committee are not eligible to apply during their terms of office. AAFCS staff are not eligible to apply during their periods of employment with the Association.
- All policies, procedures, and guidelines must be followed for the award nomination to be considered for juried review.

Submitting the Application

The application must be submitted using the official application form as one PDF document. Please be aware of the page requirements for each section. Please include page numbers and headings. The online application will require submission of a color headshot photo (for individual) or a color Logo (for group - Organization, Partner, AAFCS Community or Affiliate) that will be used in marketing and promotional materials. Please keep a copy of all materials submitted to AAFCS. Questions should be forwarded to awards@aafps.org.

Section 1: General Information

Applicant Information

- ☐ Individual (FCS Professional or Student) OR Group (Affiliates & Communities, Programs & Initiatives, or Related Organizations & Supporters)

Individual Applicant Information

- ☐ Individual (First and Last Name)
- ☐ Phonetic Pronunciation of Name
- ☐ Current Title/Position
- ☐ AAFCS Member Number
- ☐ Contact Information (Email, Phone Number, Mailing Address)
- ☐ 150 Word Biography

Organization, Partner, AAFCS Community, or Affiliate Applicant Information

- ☐ Name of the Organization, Partner, AAFCS Community or Affiliate
- ☐ Contact Information (Name, Email, Phone Number)

Nominator Information

- ☐ State Affiliate, Individual, or AAFCS Community
- ☐ Contact Information (Email, Phone Number)

Section 2: Cover Letter (Maximum of two pages)

Section 3: Supporting Narrative (Maximum of 4 pages in 12-point font)

Please select two (2) of the areas listed below that best align with the nomination. For each selected area, describe in detail how the individual or group has demonstrated excellence in supporting and advancing Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS). Provide specific examples, measurable outcomes (when possible), and the overall impact of their contributions.

- ☐ **Leadership in Advancing FCS**

Nominees should exhibit exceptional leadership in advocating for, promoting, or advancing the FCS profession. This includes promoting FCS values and engaging with communities, stakeholders, or policymakers to create a broader understanding of FCS and its impact.

- ☐ **Innovation in FCS Education or Practice**

Nominees should have demonstrated innovation in their approach to FCS education, outreach, or practice. This includes implementing creative strategies, programs, or resources that enhance the visibility and effectiveness of FCS.

- ☐ **Commitment to Community Engagement**

Nominees should show active participation in and contribution to community-based programs that further the objectives of FCS. This includes providing accessible resources or support to community members and organizations.

- ☐ **Advocacy for the Value of FCS**

Nominees should exhibit a strong commitment to advocacy efforts that communicate the relevance and importance of FCS in society. This includes engaging with policymakers, industry leaders, and the public to ensure the sustainability and growth of the FCS profession.

- ☐ **Collaboration and Partnerships**

Nominees should have worked collaboratively with others—whether in education, business, or community sectors—to expand the reach and impact of FCS.

Section 4: Letter of Support (Letter is limited to one page)

- ☐ One Letter of Support from individuals who can give evidence of the impact and importance of the applicant's contributions to individuals, families, the community, and/or profession

Evaluating the Leader Award Application

- Individuals who are nominated for an award and those who nominate or write a letter of support for a current applicant cannot serve as jurors for this award.
- Jurors cannot review applications from family members, their current students, students at their own institution, or applicants who share the same employer. Jurors are responsible for identifying any applicants that include a potential conflict of interest and recusing themselves from the review process.
- An individual who has been nominated and/or applied for an award, grant, fellowship, or scholarship shall not serve as a juror for any award, grant, fellowship, or scholarship during the period in which his or her own application is being reviewed.
- Jurors selected by the AAFCS Awards and Recognition Committee review and score the application using the Evaluation Criteria.

Awarding the Elevate FCS Award

- The recipient(s) will be notified in the spring and will be honored during the AAFCS Annual Conference.
- The Awards Committee reserves the right not to award if jurors do not find a worthy applicant.

Recognizing the Elevate FCS Award Recipient(s)

- Award recipients will be recognized at the AAFCS Annual Conference. Attendance is encouraged, but not mandatory.
- Award recipients will receive a commemorative token, and their name and photo will be shared in AAFCS communications and materials.

Failure to follow the guidelines will result in ineligibility of the applicant for the award.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria correspond with the Elevate FCS Award guidelines. They provide clarification, ease in preparing the application materials, and consistency in evaluation.

Evaluation Criteria	Points Possible
Cover Letter: The cover letter should introduce the nominee or group, provide a clear overview of their contributions, and connect their work to the purpose of the Elevate FCS Award.	/ 10
Supporting Narrative: The narrative should address two (2) of the five award focus areas, using specific examples, measurable outcomes, and clear evidence of impact.	/ 50
Letter of Support: The letter should validate the nominee's contributions with firsthand insight, provide examples of their impact, and reinforce why they deserve the award.	/ 15
Overall Impact & Contribution: The application should demonstrate that the nominee's work meaningfully elevates the FCS profession at the local, state, or national level.	/ 20
Presentation of all Application Materials: Materials are clearly stated, complete, organized, and concise with correct spelling, grammar, etc.	/ 5
Total	/ 100