New Achiever Award Guidelines

The New Achiever Award was introduced as a part of the Association's 75th Anniversary observance in 1984, when it was established to identify and honor emerging Family and Consumer Sciences professionals who have exhibited the potential to make significant contributions to the field through their involvement with AAFCS. An AAFCS member can only receive the New Achiever Award once.

Applying for the New Achiever Award

- The applicant must be a professional member of AAFCS (a) at the time of application with at least (b) two (2) consecutive years of continuous membership immediately prior to this application.
- The applicant has earned a degree in family and consumer sciences.
- The applicant has at least three (3) but no more than nine (9) years of service and experience in the field.
- The applicant is nominated by a sanctioned entity of the Association (such as an affiliate, community, committee, or unit, etc.). Self-nominations are permitted with the nominating group's endorsement. One nomination will be accepted from each nominating group. If the national award is not received, applicants may be nominated again by their affiliate and submit the application materials.
- Application materials are prepared by the applicant or the applicant and nominator and must be submitted in English.
- Applicants can submit to only one AAFCS award per annual review cycle.
- Members of the AAFCS Board of Directors and the 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 in PNG or JPEG format of the applicant 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@aafcs.org.

Section 1: General Information

Applicant Information

- ☐ First and Last Name (include AAFCS Credentials, if applicable)
- ☐ Phonetic Pronunciation of Name
- ☐ Current Title/Position
- ☐ AAFCS Member Number and Number of Years of AAFCS Membership
- ☐ Contact Information (Email, Phone Number, Mailing Address)
- ☐ 150 Word Biography in 3rd Person

Nominator Information

- ☐ Name(s), Affiliate Leadership Role
- ☐ State Affiliate
- ☐ Contact Information (Email, Phone Number)

Section 2: Applicant's Curriculum Vita or Resumé (Maximum of three pages)

Section 3: Statement of Professional Involvement & Achievements (Maximum of 4 pages in 12-point font)

- **Program Development**: Initiated, developed, or participated in the development or implementation of an innovative program and/or curriculum. Including digital innovation such as online curriculum, virtual learning tools, or social media initiatives that advance the field of FCS.
- **Contributions**: Contributed to the community through exemplary volunteer service using family and consumer sciences skills and backgrounds.
- **Research**: Conducted and/or applied research that is particularly relevant to current issues or has applied research findings to enhance the lives of individuals, families, or communities.
- **Support**: Has documented experience creating or supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion policymaking, projects, and programs.
- **Collaborative Work**: Worked with agencies and groups outside the family and consumer sciences community.
- **Recognition**: Received recognition for outstanding program/curriculum development that reflects a level of professional responsibility. (Examples: authoring books, curriculum modules, online media, or articles that have appeared in major magazines, professional journals, or other publications in print or online.)
- **Supporting Documents**: Incorporate supporting items in a readable scale, such as photographs/drawings, figures/tables, and media, etc., which illustrate and further explain the applicant's professional involvement and achievements

Section 4: Letters of Support (Each letter limited to one page):

- Two Letters 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 New Achiever Award Application

- Individuals who apply 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 who include a potential conflict of interest and recusing themselves from the review process.
- An individual who has 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 Committee review and score the application using the Evaluation Criteria.

Awarding the New Achiever 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 New Achiever Award Recipient(s)

- Award recipient(s) 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 New Achiever Award guidelines. They provide clarification, ease in preparing the application materials, and consistency in evaluation.

Evaluation Criteria	Points Possible
Has initiated, developed, or participated in the development or implementation of an innovative program and/or curriculum.	/ 15
Has contributed to the community through exemplary volunteer service using family and consumer sciences skills and backgrounds.	/ 15
Has conducted and/or applied research that is particularly relevant to current issues or has applied research findings to enhance the lives of individuals, families, or communities.	/ 10
Has documented experience creating or supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion policymaking, projects and programs.	/ 10
Has worked with agencies and groups outside the family and consumer sciences community.	/ 10
Has participated in AAFCS at the affiliate and/or national levels. (For example, applicant has attended annual conferences, given presentations, served on committees, or shown professional growth through active leadership roles.)	/ 10
Exhibits qualities/competencies of an outstanding professional in a traditional or non-traditional family and consumer sciences career.	/ 15
Has received recognition for outstanding program/curriculum development that reflects a level of professional responsibility. (Examples include but not limited to authoring books, curriculum modules, online media, or articles that have appeared in major magazines, professional journals, or other publications in print or online.)	/ 5
Certification: As of the due date of the application, the applicant holds one or more AAFCS credential(s).	/ 5
Presentation of all Application Materials: Materials are clearly stated, complete, organized, and concise with correct spelling, grammar, etc.	/ 5
Total	**/ 100**