

Vision and Purpose of the Emerging Leader Program

The Suncoast is known as an attractive region that has seen continued growth over many decades. Since 2020, a population boom has caused accelerated growth in the Sarasota/Manatee area, which comes with increased prosperity, as well as increased needs. Research shows that the wellbeing of a community largely depends on its [social determinants of health](#) (SDOH). To achieve “[social and physical environments that promote good health for all](#)”, the local health and human services sector must continue to develop compassionate and competent leaders.

Bill and Barbara Little have spent decades working in health and human services and in nursing education, respectively. They have watched ideas blossom into vibrant programs and networks that make our region unique. Together, they wish to ensure that the legacy of steady and innovative leadership continues, as our community enters a new period of change.

The Emerging Leader Program aims to develop the future leaders who will shape Sarasota’s human services community in the coming years. The Emerging Leader Award will recognize and empower emerging leaders in physical, behavioral, and environmental health; human services; and arts & culture.

“The quality of life in a community rests upon the quality of life of its people” – Dr. Kay Glasser

The Recipient’s Journey

Each recipient will receive an award of \$1,000 to be used to improve their leadership skills to benefit their organization or the community. Each will receive a copy of the book, *The Leadership Challenge*, by Kouzes and Posner, which outlines [The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership® Model](#).

Recipients will meet three times during the award year to discuss their use of the award funds, discuss community leadership challenges they are facing, and to share thoughts about being a better leader. The meetings will be facilitated by Glasser/Schoenbaum, with invited guests who will provide guidance and mentorship.

At the end of their award year, recipients will take part in a brief video presentation for the next annual Collaboration Celebration.

Definition of Award and Awardees

There will be three Emerging Leader Awards presented in the following three categories:

- [Physical, Behavioral, or Environmental Health](#). Includes work that helps the health in communities, through mental health, counseling, addiction services, public health, community health outreach, environmental services, education and outreach, or related work.
- [Human Services](#). Includes work in programs and services such as legal and social justice, housing insecurity, foster care, family services, early childhood, or supportive services for individuals with low or limited income.
- [Arts and Culture](#). Includes work focused on education in the arts, cultural diversity and awareness, and programs that strengthen community wellness through the arts.

Candidates for the award can be nominated by their employers, supervisors, and/or peers. Nominees are not sector-specific, and can work in public service, community service, or nonprofits.

The ideal awardee:

- Is a successful emerging leader at entry or mid-level in their organization with a desire to further develop their leadership potential.
- Displays a capacity to work with others, including cross-sector.
- Focuses on the betterment of the community, put the greater good before self-interest, and they see where their organization fits into the bigger picture.
- Is a systems thinker with a passion to find solutions.

Nomination Process

Nominations will be due by November 30, 2023. A completed nomination includes

- a letter from the supervisor/employer or peer, describing why their nominee is an emerging leader, and
- a letter from the nominee describing in 500-1,000 words
 - 1) what has made them a successful leader,
 - 2) areas for potential growth and
 - 3) initial proposal for use of their \$1,000 award to improve their leadership skills through an initiative or activity that benefits
 - a) their organization or
 - b) the community.

Please note:

- This proposal need not be the final use of the award funds, and can be further explored during their award year.
- Your initiative or activity can be an ongoing project or program that could be improved with this award.
- The scope of the proposal should be achievable within the year.

A decision panel will determine the award recipients. Awardees will be announced December 18, 2023, and invited to receive their recognition at the [Collaboration Celebration breakfast held on Thursday, February 29](#) by The Glasser/Schoenbaum Human Services Center.

Key Dates

- November 1, 2023 – Applications open
- November 30, 2023 – Applications close
- December 18, 2023 – Awardees announced
- February 29, 2024 – Awards presented at the Collaboration Celebration breakfast

APPLICATION FORM

Nominee Category

- Physical, Behavioral, Environmental Health Human Services Arts and Culture

Nominee

Name

Job Title

Organization

Work Address

Email

Preferred phone number

Nominating Supervisor/Employer/Peer

Name

Job Title

Organization

Work Address

Email

Preferred phone number

Application Checklist

- Letter of nomination from the supervisor/employer or peer, describing why their nominee is an emerging leader.
- Letter from the nominee describing what has made them a successful leader, areas for potential growth and initial proposal for use of their \$1,000 award to improve their leadership skills, either for their organization or benefit the community (500-1000 words).
- Completed application form
- Short bio of the nominee

Submission

Please email your completed application with all attachments in PDF or Word formats to: info@gs-humanservices.org

For questions, contact:

Charlene Altenhain, Executive Director
The Glasser/Schoenbaum Human Services Center
caltenhain@gs-humanservices.org | (941) 867-4387

For more information, visit <https://gs-humanservices.org/emerging-leader>