2026 Selection Criteria

Successful nominees for The Pinnacle Prize must:

- Demonstrate a **vision** for and a **commitment** to improving the quality of life for residents within the 9 county Kansas City metropolitan community, especially disadvantaged individuals, as substantiated by past work and/or projects successfully completed or in progress.
- Demonstrate initiative, drive and persistence as reflected by such factors as successfully overcoming obstacles in her/his/their personal life or career and achieving significant positive outcomes/results.
- Demonstrate creativity and innovation.

Nominees may work to meet needs in any one of the following sectors:

- Arts and creative expression
- Community engagement and organizing
- Education/youth development
- Environmental health and sustainability/conservation
- Equitable policing and access to justice
- Food and nutrition
- Health
- Housing and homelessness
- Workforce development and economic inclusion

Requirements:

To be considered for The Pinnacle Prize, nominees must:

- Be **45 years of age or younger** as of November 1, 2026.
- **Reside and work within the 9-county Kansas City metropolitan region;** Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, and Ray counties in Missouri and Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte counties in Kansas.
- Meet selection criteria as outlined above.

Repeat Nominee Consideration:

Individuals nominated for The Pinnacle Prize who were not selected as the $100,000 award recipient in a prior year may be re-nominated. However, to ensure new changemakers are recognized, individuals selected as a semifinalist or finalist in each of the two prior Prize cycles will be ineligible for consideration for one subsequent cycle.

2026 Deadline for Nominations

Nominations are due via the online form by 11:59 p.m. on June 29, 2026. Any nomination submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Learn More About Past Recipients

- **Nick Allen**, City of KCMO Street Outreach Coordinator
- **Tricia Rojo Bushnell**, Midwest Innocence Project Executive Director
- **Brandon Calloway**, KC G.I.F.T. CEO and Co-Founder
- **Mariya Goodbrake**, Global FC Founder and Executive Director
- **Josh Henges**, City of KCMO Houseless Prevention Coordinator
- **Kyle Hollins**, Lyrik's Institution CEO and Founder
- **Rachel Jefferson**, Groundwork NRG Executive Director
- **Star Palmer**, Our Spot KC Founder and Director
- **Tara Raghuveer**, KC Tenants Co-Founder
- **Merideth Rose,** Cornerstones of Care CEO

Questions

- **May I tell nominees that I have nominated them for The Pinnacle Prize?**
  - Yes, you are encouraged to communicate with your nominee(s). For Prize consideration, nominees who meet criteria will be asked, via email, to complete a Candidate Statement of Interest.
- **When will I find out the status of my nominee?**
  - To protect the integrity and confidentiality of the process, we do not share updates on candidate status. Nominators will be notified of the Prize recipients ahead of the public announcement in November.
- **Who will be aware that I have made a nomination?**
  - With the exception of yourself and others you inform, only The Pinnacle Prize staff and review committee members will be aware of your nomination(s).
- **How many nominations can I make?**
  - No more than 2.
- **May I re-nominate someone nominated in a previous year?**
  - Yes, with the exception of Prize recipients and select repeat nominees, as outlined above, previous nominees may be nominated again if they continue to meet criteria.
- **May I self-nominate?**
  - Yes, if you meet selection criteria, you may self-nominate. The total number of nominations you submit, including yourself, may not exceed 2.
- **May I ask others for recommendations?**
  - Yes. We encourage you to tap trusted resources within your community to help identify individuals who may meet the criteria for The Pinnacle Prize. However, your nomination opportunity may not be forwarded or transferred to others (effectively making them the nominator), as nominators are selected directly by The Pinnacle Prize team.
- **Who may I contact with any questions or concerns?**
  - Feel free to direct your questions or comments to Credo Philanthropy Advisors, maurice@credoadvisors.com or tracy@credoadvisors.com.
  - For technical issues with online forms, please contact info@pinnacleprizekc.org.