



2026 Emerging Leader Awardee Giselle Coreas

Giselle Coreas, Public Health Planner at Johnson County Public Health, is being recognized as the IPHA Emerging Leader for her impactful contributions to community health. Over the past five years, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service, beginning as a contact tracer during the COVID-19 pandemic while earning her public health degree from the University of Iowa. Giselle has played a key role in advancing food security through collaboration, innovation, and advocacy. She is actively involved in the Johnson County Food Policy Board and the Iowa Hunger Coalition and leads a local Food Security Committee, building strong partnerships with food pantries and community organizations to better meet the needs of residents.

In 2024 and 2025, Giselle led a countywide Food Security Assessment that reached more than 1,000 food pantry clients, elevating community voices and generating data used to inform funding decisions and advocate for policies supporting food access, including SNAP. She has also supported mental health initiatives through the implementation of CredibleMind and presented nationally at the 2025 NACCHO 360 conference.

In addition, her leadership in enhancing employee wellness and expanding vaccination access contributed to Johnson County earning the 2025 Healthiest State Initiative Medium Workplace Award. Giselle's collaborative approach and ability to turn data into action continue to make a meaningful impact on the health of her community.



2026 Health Equity Advocate of the Year Awardee Dr. Jimmy Reyes

Dr. Jimmy Reyes is a dedicated leader and advocate whose work has made a lasting impact on health equity across Iowa. Through years of collaboration in higher education, nonprofit leadership, and community health initiatives, he has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to serving Latino, immigrant, and refugee communities. As the founder of MyHealthIowa/MiSaludIowa, Dr. Reyes has worked to address critical gaps in culturally responsive healthcare by developing programs focused on prevention, chronic disease management, and health education. His efforts are grounded in community-informed approaches, ensuring services reflect the lived experiences and needs of those he serves. In addition to his programmatic work, he actively supports student development by creating internship opportunities, engaging in classroom learning, and fostering meaningful connections between academic institutions and community-based efforts.

Through his volunteer leadership, Dr. Reyes has built strong partnerships across healthcare, public health, nonprofit, and community sectors, strengthening collaborative efforts to improve access to care and health literacy. His involvement in initiatives such as bilingual health newsletters and community outreach events has expanded access to trusted, evidence-based information while empowering individuals to take charge of their health. By mentoring students, convening partners, and leading innovative, culturally grounded programs, he continues to create sustainable change and inspire future public health leaders. Dr. Reyes exemplifies the spirit of the Health Equity Advocate of the Year Award through his unwavering commitment to service, collaborative leadership, and measurable impact on the health and well-being of underserved communities.



2026 Partner of the Year Awardee Johnson County Food Action Network

The Johnson County Food Access Network is being recognized for the Partner of the Year Award for its exceptional collaboration with Johnson County Public Health in advancing food security efforts across the community. Formed in 2025, the coalition brings together 15 emergency food access partners—including pantries, meal sites, and distribution organizations—to strengthen equitable access through shared resources, coordinated distribution, and collective advocacy. Their partnership played a critical role in two consecutive Food Security Assessments, engaging more than 620 community members and contributing over 200 hours of on-site outreach. This work provided valuable insights into food access, quality, and community needs, while also strengthening trust between residents and public health partners.

Serving more than 27,000 individuals from over 9,000 households in FY25 alone, the Food Access Network has become a cornerstone of hunger relief in Johnson County. By distributing millions of pounds of food annually and reaching an average of over 13,000 individuals each month, the coalition ensures consistent access to nutritious food for diverse populations, including families, older adults, and working households. Through strong partnerships with local organizations, farmers, and volunteers, the Network not only addresses immediate food needs but also promotes long-term solutions grounded in equity, dignity, and community engagement—making them highly deserving of this recognition.



2026 IPHA Change-Maker Awardee Abigail Coder

As Community Health Administrator for the Dallas County Health Department, Abigail leads critical initiatives including the Health Navigation program, the community health needs assessment, and the development and implementation of the county's Community Health Improvement Plan. Her work consistently addresses the social determinants of health and strengthens systems that help residents access care, resources, and prevention services.

Abigail embodies what it means to be a collaborative public health professional. She naturally brings partners together across healthcare, social services, and local organizations, building practical solutions that are community-informed and sustainable. She thinks in systems, not silos, and approaches every challenge with a population health lens. Public health is not just her profession; it is clearly her personal commitment as well.

Her ability to translate data into action, support community partners, and create lasting structural improvements reflect the spirit of Public Health 3.0 and the intent of the Change-Maker Award. Dallas County is stronger and healthier because of her leadership.