



2026 ACS NCCRT National Achievement Award Submission Form

The American Cancer Society National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (ACS NCCRT) is seeking submissions for our **2026 National Achievement Awards**, a competitive recognition program designed to recognize individuals and organizations who are dedicating their time, talent and expertise to advancing our shared goal to reduce the incidence of and mortality from colorectal cancer across the nation. Providing clear data showing impact may increase your chances of being selected. **Forms must be submitted by Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 11:59pm ET.**

Please note:

Self-nominations and multiple entries are accepted. Submissions that exceed the word limits will not be considered.

Visit the [awards webpage](#) to learn more about eligibility, rules, selection criteria and recognition.

Please email nccrt@cancer.org with any questions.

First and Last Name

Incoming form answer

First and Last Name

Jill Ireland

Organization

American Cancer Society

Phone

 16056593300

Email

jill.ireland@caner.org

Are you nominating your own program or work?

No, I am nominating someone or something else.

City and State

North Dakota

Nomination Contact's First and Last Name

Nikki Medalen

Organization Associated with the Nomination

Quality Health Associates of North Dakota

Nominee Contact Phone

 17019896236

Nominee Contact Email

nmedalen@qualityhealthnd.org

Website of Nominee or Nominated Work

www.screend.org

Please select a category that best aligns with the nomination:

Other

You selected "Other". What other category best describes the work you are nominating?

Colorectal Cancer Screening Program

Please describe the project goal or individual mission.

The ScreeND program aimed to increase colorectal cancer (CRC) screening rates among rural, frontier, and Native American populations in North Dakota by implementing evidence-based interventions (EBIs), reducing structural barriers, and fostering sustainable system changes in primary care clinics. The ultimate goal was to reduce disparities and save lives through early detection. Clinics also receive hands-on assistance with data tracking, quality improvement, and tailored action plans designed to fit their specific needs.

By helping clinics strengthen their systems and engage patients, this initiative aims to increase screening rates, detect cancer earlier, and reduce deaths from colorectal cancer in North Dakota's most at-risk communities.

Please provide an overview of the activity, initiative or outreach effort, including target audience.

ScreeND, led by Quality Health Associates of North Dakota under the CDC's Colorectal Cancer Control Program, addressed significant disparities in CRC screening among rural and tribal communities. From 2020 to 2025, ScreeND partnered with 21 clinics across 15 health systems, serving over 64,000 individuals, including 6,100 Native Americans aged 45–75.

The initiative began with readiness assessments to tailor clinic-specific action plans and provided individualized technical assistance (TA) to implement EBIs recommended by the Community Guide. These included provider and patient reminders, reducing structural barriers and patient navigation. Clinics also received support for optimizing electronic health records (EHRs) for data collection and reporting. ScreeND facilitated action plans, monthly TA calls and site visits to monitor progress and address barriers. Partnerships with organizations such as Exact Sciences, the ND Colorectal Cancer Roundtable and the Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board strengthened implementation and sustainability. Additional resources included custom tools, social media campaigns and statewide initiatives like the ND Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative to cover screening costs for eligible residents. A key innovation was the Missed Opportunity Report, a custom tool developed to identify gaps in screening by provider, visit type and payor source. This report enabled clinics to pinpoint shortfalls and implement targeted strategies to close care gaps reinforcing data-driven decision-making. By Year 5, all clinics integrated multiple EBIs into workflows, developed formal screening policies and created sustainability plans. Outreach extended beyond clinics through community education, newsletters and presentations at state and national conferences. ScreeND's collaborative approach ensured that technical, operational and strategic needs were met, driving measurable improvements in CRC screening rates and fostering long-term system change.

Please provide the reason the individual/program entity should be recognized, including evidence of impact. Providing clear data showing impact may increase your chances of being selected.

ScreeND achieved remarkable success in improving CRC screening rates among underserved populations. Across 21 clinics, screening rates increased by an average of 29.81 percentage points, representing a 249% relative improvement. These efforts enabled an estimated 7,500 additional individuals to receive life-saving screenings who otherwise would not have been screened.

The program's reach included over 64,000 patients, with targeted efforts for 6,100 Native Americans. All clinics implemented multiple EBIs, and by Year 5, every clinic integrated provider reminders, patient reminders, structural barrier reduction, and patient navigation. Partnerships with statewide and national organizations amplified impact and sustainability, including development of a Colonoscopy Locator tool to reduce wait times and improve access. ScreeND's influence extended nationally through contributions to NCCRT resources and recognition of two North Dakota partner organizations with ACS-NCCRT Achievement Awards. The program demonstrated resilience in overcoming challenges such as COVID-19 disruptions, staff turnover, and EHR transitions, maintaining momentum through tailored TA and collaborative learning.

With measurable outcomes, innovative strategies, and a commitment to equity, ScreeND exemplifies excellence in advancing colorectal cancer screening and reducing disparities in rural and tribal communities—making it highly deserving of the NCCRT National Achievement Award.

State/Territory Where Nominated Work Was Done

North Dakota

Submitted on Jan 5, 2026