

Impact *Awards*

SUBMIT A RECOMMENDATION HERE

Entry Deadline:

11.29.2024

11:59 P.M. Eastern Time

The James Beard Impact Awards are the representation of the Foundation’s impact work and priorities. The Impact Awards recognize achievements by individuals and/or organizations who are actively working to push for standards that create a more equitable, sustainable, and economically viable restaurant industry and food system for producers, workers, and consumers alike.

The Impact Awards, one of the James Beard Foundation’s three Achievement Award programs, are administered by the Impact Committee of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees and reflect the past year’s programmatic priorities. For the 2025 Impact Awards, reflecting the areas where the Foundation did the most work in 2024, this includes:

- Climate change mitigation
- Farm bill
- Racial equity
- Gender equity
- Business and staffing practices that set new standards for the independent restaurant industry

The Impact Awards do not include firm categories and may vary in number of recipients from year to year.

Eligibility Criteria

- Anyone can submit a candidate for consideration during the online open call for recommendations from October 1 through November 29, 2024. There is no entry fee.
- In addition to the public open call for entry, recommendations are actively solicited from an advisory council of experts in the food system space and sectors adjacent to the restaurant industry.

All submissions must include: an Impact Statement detailing how the candidate’s work aligns with the Foundation’s priority areas for the timeframe covered by the Impact Awards i.e., 2024. Submissions without this statement will not be considered.

- Individuals recommended may work domestically and internationally but must be based in the United States (including territories).
- Candidates are:
 - From any background: leaders who work in farming, government, advocacy, restaurants and foodservice, educational institutions, or journalism, and in varying types of organizations, corporations, or other entities.
 - Of any age and at any stage of their career.
 - Considered based solely on the impact of their work.

Impact Statement

The James Beard Awards® honor those who are creating exceptional food, food media content, and better food systems while demonstrating a commitment to equity, community, sustainability, and a culture where all can thrive.

The application process requires a short statement describing the impact of the candidate’s work in creating a more equitable and sustainable food system, and how the work aligns with the Foundation’s priority areas. This is your chance to provide more context around the leader’s work, its impact on a national, regional, or local level, and to share what it means to their communities in your own words.

We strongly encourage candidates or those recommending candidates to write or speak in their own words. You may choose to write or record (audio/video) your impact statement.

Written: 150-300 words

Audio/Video: 1-2 minutes

2025 JAMES BEARD AWARDS

Candidates' impact statements will be reviewed by the Impact Committee of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. It will be reviewed for content, and not for language fluency, video quality, or production value.

Here are some tips to help guide you:

- If you are submitting for yourself, write or speak in the first-person.
- If you are submitting on behalf of someone else, be specific and use clear, pertinent examples.
- Remember, your statement will not be assessed on how well it's written or articulated. Please be yourself!

Who Receives the Award?

The number of recipients may vary each year and is at the discretion of the Impact Committee of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Impact Award honorees receive a silver medallion engraved with the James Beard Awards® insignia as well as a certificate. No additional medallions will be given. Additional certificates may be ordered after the awards ceremony.

Entry Fee

There is no entry fee for this program.