

Award: Government Leadership Award
Recipient: City of Urbana
Presenter: Michael Cox

Good evening. My name is Michael Cox, and I serve on the Health Care Consumers Board of Directors. I will be presenting the Government Leadership Award.

I would like to ask the representatives from the City of Urbana to come and join me on stage.

We are very pleased to be able to recognize the City of Urbana with the Government Leadership Award this evening.

Mayor Laurel Prussing, and City Council members Charlie Smyth, and Diane Marlin, and Kelly Mierkowski, Manager of Urbana Grants Management Division, are here to receive the award on behalf of the City.

The Government Leadership Award is bestowed on a local, state, or national official, body, or agency that has distinguished itself by showing leadership in advocating for, and advancing the best interests of the people and the communities they represent.

CCHCC has selected the City of Urbana to receive this award for the City's longstanding commitment to providing social services funding to local non-profit organizations in order to strengthen the Urbana community and improve the lives of Urbana residents.

The City of Urbana and Cunningham Township established the Consolidated Social Service Funding pool in September 1996 in order to provide grants to non-profit organizations in the community at-large who serve Urbana residents. The Consolidated Social Services Funding program is funded by pooling funds from three "pots" of money – the City of Urbana General Funds, City of Urbana Community Development Block Grant funds, and Cunningham Township funds. Through this process, funds are granted to non-profit organizations by joint decision of the Urbana City Council and Cunningham Township Board.

If anyone thinks that this kind of funding program is a routine function of local government, they would be wrong. It is actually not common at all for a city or township to provide social services funding for its community. However, the City of Urbana long ago recognized that it takes all sectors of the community working together to improve the community, and recognized the special role that non-profit social service agencies play in improving and stabilizing the lives of the city's residents.

In the current fiscal year, Urbana has provided over \$313,000 in social services funding to local non-profit organizations. Health Care Consumers is fortunate and grateful to be a recipient of these funds for the last 13 years for our Hotline services.

We wish more city governments would follow in Urbana's steps (I'm looking at you, City of Champaign) and invest in the non-profit organizations that provide vital social services to our community.

We are recognizing the City of Urbana for its leadership in improving the lives of Urbana residents by supporting and strengthening the non-profit organizations that provide vital services to Urbana residents.

Mayor Prussing, Council Members Smyth and Marlin, and Ms. Mierkowski, we thank you for Urbana's leadership and commitment to improving your community.

It is with deepest gratitude and respect that tonight Health Care Consumers recognizes the City of Urbana with our Government Leadership Award. Thank you.