

SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONAL AWARDS 2026 FACTSHEET

Overview

The Social Service Professional Awards appreciate and recognise the passion and professional contributions made by dedicated social service professionals (SSPs) in Singapore, including those in the fields of social work, youth work, psychology, counselling, therapy, care work, and corporate services.

1. Award Categories

S/N	Award Type	Award
1	Individual	President's Award for Social Service Professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The highest award to social service professionals conferred by the President of the Republic of Singapore.• Recognises social service professionals who are committed to excellence and innovation, demonstrated outstanding leadership ability, and have made significant contributions to the social service sector.• The awardee will receive \$10,000 cash prize, a certificate and trophy.
2	Individual	Excellence Award for Social Service Professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conferred by the Minister for Social and Family Development.• Recognises social service professionals who have delivered excellent service, demonstrated strong leadership ability and achieved notable positive outcomes and impact on the lives of clients and/or the community.• The awardee will receive \$5,000 cash prize, a certificate and trophy.
3	Individual	Merit Award for Social Service Professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conferred by the Minister for Social and Family Development.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises social service professionals who demonstrated potential for leadership development in the profession and have made a difference in the lives of clients and/or the community. The awardee will receive \$1,000 cash prize, a certificate and trophy.
4	Group	Team Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conferred by the Minister for Social and Family Development. Recognises team-based efforts that contribute to the improvement of service delivery in the social service sector, focusing on client-centric, cross-profession and cross-agency contributions. Minimum of 2 individuals per team, across at least 2 professions and/or agencies. All nominees in the team must each have more than 3 years of experience in social service at the time of nomination deadline. The awarded team will receive \$10,000 cash prize per team, a trophy per team and a certificate for each team member.

2. Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Award	Eligibility Criteria	Years of Experience required in Social Service at the time of Nomination Deadline	Evaluation Criteria
President's Award	Nominees are required to be: 1. Full-time or part-time employees of Social Service Agencies that perform or provide direct social services, including: a. NCSS member agencies (incl. programmes that are non-MSF funded and non-NCSS funded).	More than 15 years	Nominations are evaluated based on demonstration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing the Well-being of Service Users/Community Outstanding Personal & Professional Qualities (leadership ability, professional development)
Excellence Award		More than 8 years	
Merit Award		More than 3 years	

	<p>b. Non-NCSS member agencies operating in the social service sector.</p> <p>2. Any Social Service Professional, from Care Staff to Executive Director/Head of Agency (with Board endorsement can be nominated).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity & Innovative Qualities • Other Contributions (research, voluntary and/or humanitarian work)
<p>Team Award</p> <p>(Minimum 2 individuals per team across at least 2 professions and/or organisations. No maximum limit of team size.)</p>		<p>More than 3 years for each team member</p>	<p>Nominations are evaluated based on demonstration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client-centric, Transdisciplinary Contributions to Community • Creativity and Innovation • Sustainable Contributions to Clients/Community

Note: Board members (considered volunteers), volunteers, trainers (unless employed by agency), recipients of other national level awards are not eligible for the awards.

3. Experience Requirements

Years of experience are calculated cumulatively across all organisations. Any accumulated experience in your current profession counts towards your total. Breaks in employment (unemployment, no pay leave, sabbatical leave) are not counted. The cut-off date for calculating 3 years of experience is 31 December 2025.

Example 1: John is nominated for Merit Award - 'Social Work'

Organisation	Period of Employment	Job Role	Years of Experience Counted
Organisation 1	Jan 2020 to Dec 2021	Social Worker	2 years
Organisation 2	Jan 2022 to Jul 2023	Social Worker	1 year 7 months
Organisation 3	Oct 2023 to Jan 2025	Social Worker	1 year 4 months
Total			4 years 11 months

Explanation

John's total number of years of experience is taken cumulatively for all his roles as a Social Worker, thus 4 years 11 months.

Since his years of experience is more than 3 years, he is eligible for Merit Award.

Example 2: Joffrey is nominated for Merit Award - 'Social Work'

Organisation	Period of Employment	Job Role	Years of Experience Counted
Organisation 1	Jan 2020 to Dec 2021	Counsellor	2 years
Organisation 2	Jan 2022 to Jul 2023	Social Worker	1 year 7 months
Organisation 3	Oct 2023 to Jan 2025	Social Worker	1 year 4 months
Total			2 years 11 months

Explanation

Since Joffrey is nominated under the social work job role, only his work experience as a social worker will be eligible towards computation. Hence, his cumulative work experience as a Social Worker is 2 years 11 months.

Since his years of experience is less than 3 years, he is ineligible for Merit Award.

Example 3: Yancy is nominated for Merit Award- 'Counselling'

Organisation	Period of Employment	Job Role	Years of Experience Counted
Organisation 1	Jan 2020 to Dec 2021	Social Worker	2 years
Organisation 2	Jan 2022 to Jul 2023	Social Worker	1 year 7 months
Organisation 3	Oct 2023 to Jan 2025	Counsellor	1 year 4 months
Total			1 years 4 months

Explanation

Since Yancy is nominated under the counselling job role, only her work experience as a counsellor will be eligible towards computation. Hence, her cumulative work experience as a Counsellor is 1 year 4 months.

Since her years of experience is less than 3 years, she is ineligible for Merit Award.

4. Nomination Process Timeline

Nomination Period	Nominations close on 16 February 2026 (Monday), 5:00pm Late submissions will <u>not</u> be considered.
Submission Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who Can Submit: Organisations may submit nominations for the Awards and every submission will have to be supported and endorsed by the Head or Board Chairman of Organisation which the nominee(s) or team(s) is working in. If the members of the Team Award are from different organisations, only one organisation will be required to submit and endorse the nomination.• How to Submit: Online at https://go.gov.sg/ssp2026nominationform Please read through the information carefully before filling up the nomination form.• Submission Rules: One nomination form per individual/team; organisations may submit multiple forms.• Multiple Nominations: Individuals may be nominated for one individual award and the team award, but not for multiple individual awards.
Confirmation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful submissions will receive email acknowledgement.• Please ensure that all submissions are duly completed with the necessary supporting documents.• Any incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted.

5. Award Ceremony & Results

- **Results Notification:** Awardees will be contacted via email at least one month before ceremony.
 - **Award Ceremony:** September 2026 (exact date to be announced)
 - **Confidentiality:** Awardees are to keep information regarding the Social Service Professional Awards embargoed until the Award Ceremony.
 - **Frequency:** Awards will take place annually.
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6. Additional Information

- **More Details:** Visit NCSS website at <https://go.gov.sg/sspawards>
- **Contact for Queries:** ssp_awards@ncss.gov.sg