Award
Ryan Colburn Scholarship Award
Description
In 2011, AMCHP established the Ryan Colburn Scholarship Award in honor of Ryan Colburn, an extraordinary young man whose interests included singing, sports, and playing Miracle League Baseball. An avid Auburn and Atlanta Braves fan, Ryan was known for his contagious personality and unforgettable smile. He shared a powerful message with the disability community: to live life to the fullest. Ryan spoke at local and national conferences about growing up with a disability and inspiring others through his advocacy. Following his passing, his mother, Susan Colburn, a family leader, advocate, and AMCHP member, created the scholarship to continue his work. The scholarship supports a young adult with complex health care needs or disabilities to attend the AMCHP Annual Conference and grow as a leader in maternal and child health (MCH).
Criteria
Nominees for the Ryan Colburn Scholarship Award must meet the following criteria: • Candidate is a young adult with complex healthcare needs or disabilities, who has had some connection to their state Title V program, (as a recipient of services, serving in some sort of advisory capacity, or both) and can build off this experience continuing to be involved in their state. • Candidate is 18-25 years of age who identifies as having special healthcare needs or disabilities. • Candidate has demonstrated involvement in their community and an interest in improving the lives of children and youth with complex health care needs. Relevant experience may include volunteering, community service, advocacy or leadership in the disability community or public health, serving on an advisory group, working in a related role, or receiving services through the state's Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) or Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) program. • Candidate must be a first-time attendee at the AMCHP Annual Conference (if you have previously attended the AMCHP Annual Conference you are not eligible to apply).
Selection Process
One award will be made annually from a pool of nominations solicited nationwide. AMCHP accepts self-nominations for this category. AMCHP will issue a call for award nominations via AMCHP Pulse, Member Briefs, the AMCHP website, and blast emails to all AMCHP contacts approximately six months prior to the Annual Conference. The Youth Voice Amplified Committee will review nominations and make a recommendation to the Governance Committee for the winner. The Governance Committee reviews and approves the final recommendation for consideration by the Board of Directors. Nominees are notified of the final status of their submission approximately three months prior to the Annual Conference. The Ryan Colburn Scholarship Award is awarded during the AMCHP Annual Conference.
Special Travel Funding
The awardee will receive full conference registration (in-person). If the awardee prefers to accept the award in person, reimbursement of up to $1,800 will be provided to the awardee for airfare, meals, and personal attendant costs to attend the AMCHP Annual Conference. In addition, AMCHP will provide up to two nights of lodging. Reasonable accommodations to participate can be provided upon request.

The following expectations apply to awardees selected for this scholarship award:

- Attend the entire AMCHP annual conference
- Develop a plan on how you will share the information and resources with other young adults
- Submit a picture for inclusion in AMCHP publications
- Share with AMCHP the impact and outcomes of their activities
- The award winner will have the opportunity to access the leadership development activities currently available through AMCHP's Leadership Lab and/or other opportunities

Prior Awardees

2026 Riley Patterson
2025 Rene Lambert
2024 Emily Cowen
2022 Dylan Campbell
2020 Tracy Lee Allard
2019 Julia Hartman
2018 Hope Hoffman
2017 Edward Esbeck
2015 Asha Purohit
2014 Teresa Nguyen
2013 Steven Nguyen
2012 Josiah Barber