

## Harry J. Cowherd Award Winners 1992 to Present

The Harry J. Cowherd Award is the Divisions' most prestigious award honoring a center (or centers) which truly excelled in the crucial role of serving kids and families.

This "Award for Center Excellence" is named for the late Dr. Harry J. Cowherd, who was a former secretary of the Cabinet for Human Resources, and a staunch advocate for the Family Resource and Youth Services Centers' concept.

Dr. Cowherd was the Cabinet secretary during the inception of the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 and his vision helped to create the FRYSC network. He worked with legislators, community organizations, and children's advocates to establish legislation linking his agency's programs with those of the Kentucky Department of Education.

The Harry J. Cowherd Award is given to a center which has contributed to Dr. Cowherd's tremendous legacy by demonstrating excellence above & beyond its expected center operations. The nominations contained dozens of amazing programs and detailed SOME of the truly outstanding work being done across the commonwealth by FRYSCs.

1992	Norma Meeks	Boyd Co	Boyd County West FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
1993	Clifford Irons	Jefferson Co	Iroquois High School YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
1994	*Info missing			
1995	*Info missing	Boyd Co	Boyd County East FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
1996	Bill Bacon	Jefferson Co	Rutherford FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
1997	Clifford Irons	Jefferson Co	Iroquois High School YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
1998	Diane Smith	Berea Ind	Berea Independent FRYSC	Harry J. Cowherd
1998	Julie Goodan	Somerset Ind	Somerset FRYSC	Harry J. Cowherd
1998	Shurella Hall	Pike Co.	Shelby Valley YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
1998	Donna Drown	Ashland Ind	South Ashland FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
1999	Janice Boyd	Trigg Co	ASK FRYSC	Harry J. Cowherd
1999	*Info missing	Paducah Ind	KERA-CEL YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
1999	Kimberly Powell	Shelby Co.	Simpsonville FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2000	Brenda Hale	Fairview Ind.	Fairveiw FRYSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2000	Scott Higdon	Owensboro Ind	Foust Elementary FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2000	*Info missing	Jefferson Co.	Iroquois Middle School YSC	Harry J. Cowherd

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2001	*info missing			
2002	Catherine Newton	Boyd Co.	Boyd County Youth Services Center	Harry J. Cowherd
2003	Linda Pearman	LaRue Co.	LaRue County FRYSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2004	*info missing			
2005	Betty Pennington	Boone Co.	Collins Elementary FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2006	Mike Flynn	Estill Co.	Estill County MS YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2007	Andrea Pike-Goff	Meade Co.	Keralot II FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2008	Paula Garrison	Adair Co.	The Family Place FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2008	Debbie Canavera	Meade Co.	Stuart Pepper MS YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2008	Melissa Wolfe	Webster Co.	Connections FRYSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2009	Betty Marshall	Bullitt Co.	Hand in Hand FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2009	Tonia Wiggins	Bullitt Co.	Bullitt Central YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2009	Jill Blackman	Fayette Co.	Cassidy/Morton FRYSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2010	Amy Carmichael	Madison Co.	Kirksville FRC	Whatever It Takes
2011	Syvia Boyette	Grayson Co.	Caneyville FRC	Whatever It Takes
2012	Sarah Evans	Todd Co.	Todd County FRC	Whatever It Takes
2013	No Award Given			
2014	Marianna Romero	McCracken Co.	FRIENDS FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2014	Renee Wooten	Boone Co.	R.A. Jones YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2014	Meloday Simms	Kenton Co.	Kenton Elementary FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2015	Geri Willis	Ashland Ind.	Ashland FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2016	Anna Houston	Danville Ind.	Families First FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2017	Amy Newton	Marion Co.	Glasscock/Calvary FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2018	Lucas Vilorio	Daviess Co.	Sorgho FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2019	Christopher Dudley	Christian Co.	Eagels FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2020	Tiffany Runyon	Fayette Co.	Coventry Oak Elementary FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2020	Amy Nonweiler	Daviess Co.	College View Middle YSC	Harry J. Cowherd

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2020	Tracy Pulley	Fulton Ind.	The Family Connection FRYSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2021	Donta Tyler	Paducah Ind.	Morgan Elementary FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2021	Cecilia Adams	Harlan Ind.	Harlan Ind. FRYSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2021	Amanda Heacock	Franklin Co.	Bondourant & Western Hills YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2022	Jennifer Madison	Warren Co.	Drakes Creek Middle School YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2022	Kristen Mackey	Hopkins Co.	South Hopkins Middle School YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2022	Carla Mack	Fayette Co.	Edythe J. Hayes Middle School YSC	Harry J. Cowherd
2022	Kristie Joyce	Jefferson Co.	Layne/Wilkerson FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2022	Molly Wesley	Newport Ind.	Newport Primary FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2023	Jill Payne	Franklin Co.	Harry J. Cowherd FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2024	Kathy Oehler	Boone Co.	North Pointe Elementary FRC	Harry J. Cowherd
2025	Jalen Clark	Boone Co.	RA Jones Middle School YSC	Harry J. Cowherd

To preserve our FRYSC history and to remember the amazing contributions of our coordinators, we have created this list. Please note that over the years some information has been lost. If you can help us with some of our missing information, or see an error on this list please email [Chris.Cross@KY.gov](mailto:Chris.Cross@KY.gov)

***Revised 2/12/2026 ADA Compliant***