

For Immediate Release

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**2019 Sentinel Awards Call for Entries**  
**Announced by USC's Hollywood, Health & Society**

*Accurate TV Storylines Motivating Healthy Life Choices Will Be Honored*

LOS ANGELES, June 12, 2019—Hollywood, Health & Society (HH&S), a program of the USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center, announces a call for entries for the 2019 Sentinel Awards, which recognize outstanding achievements in television storylines that inform, educate and motivate viewers to make choices for healthier and safer lives.

Entries from broadcast, cable and streaming network shows are eligible. The awards are presented by HH&S, a resource for writers, producers and others in search of accurate information on health, safety and security topics, including mental health, cancer, aging, opioid addiction, HIV/AIDS, maternal health, reproductive rights, criminal justice, nuclear risk, clinical trials and more.

The deadline for entries is July 31, 2019. The honorees will be announced in Fall 2019 and presented at a red-carpet event in Hollywood on November 6.

“TV writers and producers not only entertain audiences, but they affect them as well,” said Martin Kaplan, director of the Lear Center. “We know this both from our research, and from stories that viewers tell. This award recognizes the responsible and creative use of that power by television writers and producers.”

HH&S Director Kate Folb added that “writers know that accurate and realistic portrayals make for more compelling stories. They also know that strong health or safety topics can serve their audiences with useful information. We want to highlight shows that do just that—entertain *and* inform.”

The 2019 winners will be selected based on accuracy, entertainment value and benefit to the viewing audience. Information for applicants can be found at [www.usc.edu/hhs](http://www.usc.edu/hhs).

Among last year's winners were the NBC medical series *Chicago Med* for an episode about HIV/AIDS, and ABC's long-running hit show *Grey's Anatomy* for a storyline on maternal health. Other honorees included: The Netflix show *GLOW* (abortion), CBS' *Madam Secretary* (nuclear risk), Disney Junior's *Sofia the First* (vision impairment), the CW's *Jane the Virgin* (breast cancer), and ABC's *General Hospital* (Alzheimer's disease).

Funding for HH&S comes from the CDC, The SCAN Foundation, the California Health Care Foundation, the John Pritzker Family Fund, N Square, and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, among others. The program serves as a free resource that supports the entertainment industry through expert consultations and briefings, panel discussions, screenings, custom research trips, social media and more.

Now approaching its 20th year, the Norman Lear Center is a multidisciplinary research and public policy center studying and shaping the impact of entertainment and media on society. From its base in the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, the Lear Center builds bridges among faculty who study aspects of entertainment, media and culture. Beyond campus, it bridges the gap between the entertainment industry and academia, and between them and the public. For more information, visit [www.learcenter.org](http://www.learcenter.org).

Located in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California, the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism is among the nation's leading institutions devoted to the study of journalism and communication, and their impact on politics, culture and society. USC Annenberg offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in journalism, communication, public diplomacy and public relations. For more information, visit [www.annenberg.usc.edu](http://www.annenberg.usc.edu).

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