

# Ways to improve Recognition Event

## 1. Ways to Redesign the In-Person Recognition

Below are methods that keep things meaningful *and calm*.

### **A. Move from individual name announcements to “spotlight stories”**

Instead of reading every single name, you highlight:

- 2–3 short stories per category
- A collective acknowledgment of all nominees

Everyone still feels honored, but the room stays focused and the pace is controlled.

Example script: “Please join me in honoring the incredible 27 partners nominated this year. We want to highlight three stories that exemplify the spirit of this category...”

Names appear on screen/in program — not read aloud.

### **B. Introduce a “roll of honor” wall or installation**

Create a large, high-quality visual display people can visit throughout the event:

- A printed banner or wall with all nominee names
- Posters by category
- A “hall of gratitude” installation with quotes, photos, logos
- Or a digital display on loop in lobby

This shifts recognition from the stage to a space where people can reflect quietly.

### **C. Recognize groups/categories rather than individuals**

For example:

- Invite *all* volunteers in the room to stand.
- Invite *all* housing providers to stand.
- Invite *all* partnerships reps to stand.

You acknowledge them collectively, which reduces chaos but feels powerful.

### **D. Use “representatives” on stage rather than all members of a partnership**

For Partnership nominees:

- Invite 1–2 people per partnership up  
NOT entire multi-agency teams.  
This massively reduces the logistical tangle.

## 2. Ways to Use Media Without the Hectic Feeling

### A. Convert the PowerPoint into a curated video

Instead of flipping through dozens of slides, create:

- A 4–7-minute montage
- Music + photos/logos
- Each nominee listed once
- Highlighted quotes woven in

This keeps energy high and removes the stress of slide timing, crowd movement, and name reading.

### B. Use QR codes at the event

Each table gets a QR code linking to the full nomination booklet.

Attendees explore stories at their pace.

On stage, you focus on meaningful highlights.

### C. Use short video clips featuring a few nominees

1–2 minutes each, especially Phoenix Rising voices.

Other categories get mentioned in the video montage, but not individually interviewed.

## 3. Ways to Extend Recognition Beyond the Event

This reduces the burden the day *of* and still honors everyone richly.

### A. Supervisor/Elected Official Recognition Campaign

You already mentioned this — it's a GREAT idea.

How it could work:

- After nominees are confirmed, divide them by district.
- Provide each Supervisor with a recognition packet + template social posts + talking points.
- Supervisors record 20–30 second congratulatory videos.

- You release these videos weekly during Homelessness Awareness Month.
- Nominees get certificates signed by Supervisors (or Board Chair).

This expands recognition significantly *beyond* the event.

### **B. Publish a beautifully designed “Recognition Booklet”**

You already have a toolkit — make this booklet a centerpiece.

Include:

- Quotes
- Photos (if consented)
- Descriptions
- Inspiring snippets

You can debut the booklet at the event and distribute physical copies.

### **C. Social media “story spotlights” throughout November**

Each day or week:

- Highlight a nominee on social
- Include a quote from their nomination
- Tag their organization if appropriate
- Celebrate their work

This gives long-lasting recognition without crowding the in-person event.

## **4. A Recommended Event Flow**

Based on your goals, here’s a flow that keeps things meaningful and low-stress:

- 1. Welcome + big-picture gratitude**
- 2. Theme framing — “Collective Rising,” “Partners in Community,” etc.**
- 3. Phoenix Rising Recognition (full in-person spotlight)**
  - These stories are usually the most emotionally powerful
  - They deserve in-person honor without rushing
  - Use short videos or in-person remarks
- 4. Volunteer Recognition**

- Stand-up recognition for all volunteers
- Share 1–2 highlight stories
- Video montage or slide with all names

#### 5. **Housing Provider Recognition**

- Stand-up recognition for all providers
- Spotlight 1–2 exceptional partnership or barrier-reducing stories
- Photo of all nominees together

#### 6. **Partnerships Recognition**

- Acknowledge the large number
- Screen a video/slide montage
- Invite each partnership to send **one representative** to the stage for a group photo
- No individual name reading

#### 7. **Closing remarks + unveiling of Recognition Booklet + QR code**

Keeps things smooth, meaningful, and inclusive.

## 5. How to Handle the Large Partnerships Category

This is the trickiest one — here are the best options:

### **Option A: “Representative only” recognition**

Each nomination selects 1 person to represent them on stage. You acknowledge the *partnership*, not the individuals.

### **Option B: “Partnership clusters”**

Group nominations into:

- Cross-sector collaborations
- Direct service teams
- Systems-level collaborations

Recognize each cluster, not each partnership.

### **Option C: “Gallery walk” or “Impact wall”**

Have posters or stations around the event with:

- Partnership descriptions
- Photos/logos
- Key accomplishments

People mingle and learn — no rush on stage.

**Option D: Recognition video + group photo**

Show all partnership names in a montage.

Invite all reps for a **single** photo at the end.