



**J. Ryan McMahon, II**  
County Executive

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**Onondaga County**  
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**Daniel H. Wears**  
Commissioner

**Jeffrey J. VanBeveren**  
Director of EMS

August 12, 2026

Dear Educators and Community Partners,

As an organization that serves families and children, we are inviting you to submit nominations for the Henry "Hank" Boynton award. This annual award is presented by the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management Fire Bureau and the Project Concern Committee.

Project Concern is a fire safety intervention program for children and their parents that encourages and promotes fire safety awareness and fire safety habits. The annual Henry "Hank" Boynton Award recognizes the important work of educators and community partners who continue to carry forward Chief Boynton's commitment to fire prevention safety programs especially for children and youth.

Boynton Award honorees have advanced fire safety awareness, particularly among young children. Their efforts have improved the lives of many families and contributed to the reduction of juvenile fire setting in our community.

Please give serious consideration to submitting a nomination for this award. For your reference, the award selection committee likes to recognize individuals, groups or organizations who are:

- Providing services to children and families to increase fire safety awareness
- Providing leadership in building a fire-safe community for children and families
- Supporting fire safety initiatives and/or programs, such as Project Concern, by donating time, talent, or financial resources

For more information on Chief Boynton and The Boynton Award:

<https://onondaga.gov/em/fire-bureau/boynton/>

Nominations must be received by **September 14, 2026**.

Thank you,

*Jerry Payne*

Jerry Payne  
Chairman  
Project Concern Committee