

EMPOWERMENT:

FORGING AHEAD WITH STRENGTH AND COURAGE

2025 Chairman Award

Honors a current or former SCDA Board Member or a dedicated leader in the sickle cell community whose exceptional service has uplifted sickle cell warriors and caregivers. This recognition highlights individuals whose tireless service and commitment have strengthened SCDA's mission and created a lasting impact on the sickle cell community.



Wayne A. I. Frederick, MD, MBA

Wayne A. I. Frederick, MD, MBA, was appointed interim president of Howard University in September 2025. Previously, Dr. Frederick served as the interim CEO of the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, guiding both organizations and their more than 3,000 team members and 1.3 million volunteers. Today, he continues to operate and lecture second and third-year medical students and surgical residents of the Howard University School of Medicine. An internationally recognized expert on disparities in health care and medical education, Dr. Frederick is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, abstracts and editorials. His research addresses narrowing racial, ethnic and gender disparities in cancer care outcomes.

2025 Community Health Worker P.O.W.E.R. Award

Celebrates an exceptional CHW who embodies professionalism, integrity and dedication in serving the sickle cell disease community. This honor recognizes a CHW who consistently goes above and beyond to provide support, advocacy and empowerment, making a meaningful difference in the lives they touch. Their work reflects the highest values of the profession and a deep commitment to improving health outcomes.



Chondra Stone

Chondra Stone is a certified community health worker, educator and counselor at the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America – Mobile Chapter. Chondra provides culturally responsive education on sickle cell disease and trait awareness, supports screenings and outreach events, and serves as a vital liaison between patients, families and health care providers. Her accomplishments include spearheading partnerships with local clinics, strengthening referral pathways for patients and helping to launch the Community Health Worker Internship Program.

She is widely recognized for her ability to connect with sickle cell warriors and their families, fostering trust while breaking down complex medical information into clear, practical steps that support healthier lives.

2025 AWARD WINNERS

2025 Champion Awards

Honors an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to advancing the cause of sickle cell disease through leadership, advocacy and/or action. This award recognizes a staunch supporter, often a legislator or influential leader — who has championed legislation, policy or funding to improve the lives of those affected. Their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment have made a lasting impact on the sickle cell community.



U. S. Sen. Cory Booker

Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) has emerged as a national leader in the effort to fix the criminal justice system and end mass incarceration, helping craft the most sweeping set of criminal justice reforms in a generation, the First Step Act, which became law in December 2018. He has also worked to reform America's broken food system, address our nation's nutrition crisis and end food insecurity. He sits on the Judiciary Committee, the Foreign Relations Committee, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.



U.S. Sen. Tim Scott

Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) has served in the U.S. Senate since 2013. During his time in office, he has been a tireless advocate for creating more opportunities for families living paycheck-to-paycheck and helping children in poverty have access to quality education. He launched his Opportunity Agenda, a legislative package aimed at achieving these goals, as well as the Senate Opportunity Coalition, a group of Senators committed to helping those in need. He has sponsored balanced budget amendments throughout his time in Congress. He serves on the Finance Committee, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and Special Committee on Aging.

In February 2025, long-time SCD champions Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Tim Scott (R-SC) reintroduced the Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act (S. 735/H.R. 1796), which would reauthorize the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Demonstration Program for another five years. In addition, they also reintroduced the Sickle Cell Disease Comprehensive Care Act (S. 721), which would allow state Medicaid programs to provide comprehensive and coordinated care to sickle cell warriors through a health home model.

2025 Advocacy Award

Recognizes an individual who has gone above and beyond in championing the needs of the sickle cell community and amplifying their voice through passionate and persistent action. This individual has made it their mission to raise awareness, influence meaningful change and create a lasting positive impact on those living with sickle cell disease, their caregivers and the entire sickle cell community. Their tireless dedication and unwavering commitment embody the true spirit of advocacy.



Mary Murph

Mary Murph faced a profound challenge when her daughters were diagnosed with sickle cell disease. Frustrated but undeterred, she reached out to doctors, legislators and researchers nationwide, building her own understanding of the disease and ultimately becoming a self-taught advocate. In 1972, she founded the St. Petersburg Chapter of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA). What began as a grassroots effort operated from her home quickly became a vital resource for the local community. Today, under Mary's leadership as president and CEO — a volunteer role she continues to fulfill — the chapter has grown to provide a wide array of services offering much-needed support and resources.

2025 President's Award

Honors an SCD leader whose vision, dedication and leadership have driven significant progress for the sickle cell community. The award recognizes an individual who has led their organization to launch innovative initiatives or remarkable accomplishments that have created meaningful and lasting impact on warriors and caregivers. Their passion and commitment have set a standard of excellence for advancing sickle cell advocacy, support and awareness.

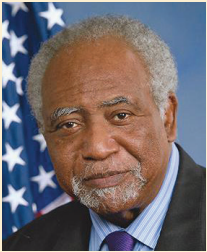


TaLana Hughes, MPH

TaLana Hughes, MPH, is the executive director of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Illinois (SCDAI) serving as a voice for families, a fighter for equity and a force for change. What started as an internship at SCDAI grew into a lifelong mission — one that has changed lives across Illinois and beyond. With over 20 years of advocacy, education and leadership, TaLana has expanded programs, secured critical funding and pushed for policy changes to ensure that individuals with sickle cell disease receive the comprehensive care and support they deserve. TaLana was recently honored as the 2025 Chicago Defender Women of Excellence Honoree. She is a board member of SCDAI and president of the Executive Director Leadership Council.

2025 Lifetime Achievement Award

Honors an individual whose lifelong dedication, passion and body of work has significantly advanced the sickle cell community. Through both their professional and personal efforts, they have championed positive change, increased awareness and improved the lives of those living with sickle cell disease and their caregivers. Through their life's work, they have made a profound impact on the community, creating a lasting legacy of dedication, progress and hope for future generations.



Representative Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis (D-IL-07) serves on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee and is the Subcommittee Ranking Member of the Worker and Family Support Subcommittee. He is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Progressive Caucus, Congressional Equity Caucus, Urban Caucus, Community Health Center's Caucus, Congressional Sugar Caucus, Congressional Caucus on Black Men and Boys and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Re-entry. He has received hundreds of awards and citations for outstanding work in the areas of health, education, human relations, politics and advocacy, including six honorary doctorate degrees from colleges and universities.

Representative Davis has championed numerous pieces of sickle cell disease specific legislation, including serving as the Democratic lead on H.R. 1796, the Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act, and H.R. 5178, the Sickle Cell Disease Comprehensive Care Act. He leads Congressional resolutions recognizing June 19 as World Sickle Cell Awareness Day and September as National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month. Rep. Davis has also led letters requesting funding for the federal sickle cell disease programs and has fought to reform the Social Security disability criteria for sickle cell disease warriors.