

*Recognizing Outstanding  
Achievements and Innovations  
in County Government*

# COUNTY GOVERNMENT **Best Practices Awards Program**

The County Government Best Practices Awards Program recognizes the efforts of county leaders in creating new, efficient and effective solutions to challenges facing local governments. These solutions include innovative programs, increased delivery of services and superior achievements in all areas of county operations. Examples include financial and general management, public safety and corrections, health and human services, technology, community improvements and other county-related responsibilities.



# COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## Best Practices Awards Program



### WHAT IS A BEST PRACTICES PROGRAM?

The County Government Best Practices Awards Program recognizes the efforts of county leadership in creating new, efficient and effective solutions to challenges facing local governments. These solutions include innovative programs, increased delivery of services and superior achievements in all areas of county operations. Examples include financial and general management, criminal justice and public safety, health and human services, technology, county resiliency (infrastructure, energy and sustainability), community improvements and other county-related responsibilities.

### GOALS OF THE PROGRAM?

- Recognize counties for innovation.
- Inspire leaders to develop improved programs.
- Create avenues for promoting replicable and proven solutions to common county concerns.

### NOMINATING A PROGRAM?

To be considered for a County Government Best Practices Award, please fill out the official nomination form and complete a detailed narrative about the program. The forms are listed on the FAC website. Write your narrative so that a general audience can understand what the program is about. You may include any additional information (photographs, exhibits, news media coverage, etc.) that helps describe the program.

### RECOGNITION OF WINNERS

Recognition of winning programs/counties will include: .



## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & STANDARDS:**

The program should demonstrate one of the following standards: Superior Innovation, Outstanding Achievement or Exceptional Delivery of Service.

- Superior Innovation means the program demonstrates a significant level of innovation or streamlining of procedures that benefit the county and/or the public; a new method of operation or solution to a problem; or a measurable and significant increase in productivity, customer service and/or cost savings for the county.
- Outstanding Achievement means a program or action that results in a landmark policy, program or legislative change in support of county operations; outstanding county leadership in fostering partnerships in the community and other levels of government to maximize resources; or a one-time heroic or extraordinary performance that produces tremendous benefits for the county and/or the public.
- Exceptional Delivery of Service means a program that demonstrates the implementation of a process or program that significantly improves public access and/or use of a county service, is not necessarily high-tech or expensive and focuses on providing services beyond established performance standards.
  - The program should have been established within the previous 24 months.
  - The program should be in full operation by the submission deadline.
  - The program should have measurable or demonstrable results.
  - The program should be replicable or scalable to benefit other counties.
  - County officials or staff in their official capacities must have played a leadership role in development of the program, with only limited assistance from outside experts and/or consultants.
  - The program should not be a substantial replication of a previous Best Practices Award winner.

## **Important Dates:**

Submissions Window: October 1 - November 6, 2020

Notifications of Best Practices Awards: Week of November 23, 2020

FAC Legislative Conference: December 2-4, 2020 (Duval County)

*For questions please contact  
Eric Poole at [epoole@flcounties.com](mailto:epoole@flcounties.com)*

## Nomination Form

1. Complete this entry form and attach it to the narrative. The narrative should address the Eligibility Criteria and Standards as described on page 2. Narratives should not be longer than six pages. Counties wanting to nominate more than one program can access an interactive form on the FAC website at flcounties.com. Forms can be submitted electronically.
2. The narrative description of a County Government Best Practices Awards program should respond to the following:
  - a. The challenge or concern that prompted the development of the program/project;
  - b. The solution and steps taken to address the problem and an explanation of the objectives and how they were met;
  - c. The results and how the program impacted the community and/or county operations;
  - d. The summary, a 100-word description that includes elements of the challenge, solution and results.
3. The deadline for nominations is November 6, 2020.

### I. Program Information

County \_\_\_\_\_

Program title \_\_\_\_\_

Official/individual playing significant role \_\_\_\_\_

Actual implementation date \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Authorization

Please check this box to approve the online posting of your winning nomination form to the FAC website.

**III. Contact Information** *(person to whom correspondence should be sent)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Signature of the County Judge or Elected Official/Auditor**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## **SECTION I—THE CHALLENGE**

Discuss the reason this program/project was developed. Talk about the need, concern or problem that prompted its implementation. Provide information about the history of your program/project, and include such information as when it was first started, who started it and where it was started. Explain why your program is innovative or new in its approach to solving the need, concern or problem it was meant to solve. (Attach additional pages as needed.)

## **SECTION II—THE SOLUTION**

Describe the steps taken by the county through this program/project to address the need, concern or problem mentioned in section I. Explain the objectives of the program, and provide information about how each of these objectives were met through all the stages of developing and implementing the program/project. (Attach additional pages as needed.)

### **SECTION III—THE RESULTS**

Describe the results of your program/project. Specific data, such as cost savings, service enhancement, etc., or other performance-oriented information will strengthen your application. It's essential that you explain how your community and/or county operations are affected. The selection committee is required to review measurable results. Information on how your program/project could be replicated by other counties is also helpful. (Attach additional pages as needed.)



## **SECTION IV—SUMMARY**

In approximately 100 words, summarize the program/project. This summary may be used for promotional purposes. Your summary must include elements of the challenge, solution and results.

