NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
of COUNTIES
NACo®

2024 NACo
Achievement
Awards

CELEBRATING
54 YEARS OF
INNOVATION

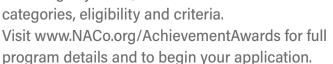# We invite you to join us in celebrating 54 years of county innovation by applying today.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Through a non-competitive application process, noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities.

Participate & Share Your County's Innovative Programs

Your county can earn local and national recognition. Achievement Award winners have been featured in local media, in County News, and at NACo's Annual Conference. Eighteen "best of category" winners will receive special recognition, and all winners will receive a customizable press release to share the good news.

Explore further to learn more about the application process, including key dates, award categories, eligibility and criteria. Visit www.NACo.org/AchievementAwards for full program details and to begin your application.

Key Dates

- **November 20, 2023:** *Application Process Opens
- **February 23, 2024:** Early Bird Submission Deadline
- **March 30, 2024:** Regular Submission Deadline
- **Early May:** Notifications of Achievement Awards

Share your county's innovative programs through the 2024 NACo Achievement Awards

Achievement Award Categories:

ARTS, CULTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION: Demonstrate how counties observe local heritage and/or leverage the arts to improve residents' quality of life and address challenges communities face

CHILDREN AND YOUTH: Ensure children's development through a continuum of supportive services including health, education, and childcare

CIVIC EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION: Enrich the public's understanding of county government and elevate awareness of county services

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Foster and create conditions to support community and economic development, including enhancing processes and partnerships that strengthen communities

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT: Engage County workers and provide resources to staff to manage departments and services more efficiently

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Improve public safety systems, justice systems, community crime prevention and crisis intervention

COUNTY RESILIENCY, INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY: Optimize innovative technologies and other innovations to advance the county's energy goals and environmental stewardship

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: Utilize new models of managing county finances and improve stewardship of taxpayer resources

HEALTH: Improve residents' physical and/or behavioral health, including through promoting healthy living and delivering health services

HUMAN SERVICES: Assist residents, particularly veterans, children, elderly residents and/or disabled residents

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Implement creative uses of technology that make county processes more efficient and cost-effective

LIBRARIES: Engage libraries to achieve community goals and support innovation and public outreach through county library systems

PARKS AND RECREATION: Revitalize and reimagine existing or create new public spaces that benefit residents and visitors

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING: Demonstrate strategic ways to recruit county employees, encourage professional development and maintain a first-class workforce

PLANNING: Illustrate how counties think creatively about community design and development processes

RISK AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Bolster a county's ability to plan for, recover from and adapt to disasters, both natural and manufactured, whose impacts can be physical, economic, and social

TRANSPORTATION: Improve the movement of goods, people, and shape how communities grow

VOLUNTEERS: Showcase how county residents give back to communities and neighbors

Eligibility and Criteria

Only county governments and state associations of counties are eligible to submit applications. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by a single county. Regional partners are welcome to submit applications for a collective project; however, the associated county or state association must submit the application on the group's behalf.

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

1. The start date of the program must be explicitly stated; the program must have become operational after January 1, 2019 and must have measurable results.

2. County officials and/or staff, as part of their official duties, must have played a significant role in developing and implementing the program, with limited assistance from outside technical experts and/or consultants.

3. All steps in the application process must be completed and all application fees must be paid in full by March 30, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. EDT

PROGRAM CRITERIA

- **Programs must accomplish one or more of the following:**

  - Offer new services to county residents, fill gaps in the availability of services, fill gaps in or tap new revenue sources

  - Improve the administration of an existing county government program

  - Upgrade the working conditions or level of training for county employees. Enhance the level of citizen participation in, or the understanding of, government programs

  - Provide information that facilitates effective public policy making

  - Promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing shared problems

PROGRAM CRITERIA CONTINUED

- In the case of a program that is in response to a federal or state law, regulation or order, the program must go beyond mere compliance with the statute, regulation or order and must display a creative approach to meeting those requirements.

- The program must have measurable results (e.g. cost savings, enhanced employee productivity, improved constituent services, created better intergovernmental cooperation).

- The program must be innovative and not rely on techniques or procedures that are common practice in most counties of similar population or size.

For more details on program eligibility standards and criteria, visit www.NACo.org/AchievementAwards.

Questions?

NACo is here to help. Email awards@naco.org or visit www.NACo.org/AchievementAwards for more information.