



## 2010 COUNTY BEST PRACTICES AWARDS PROGRAM

*A unique awards program recognizing outstanding achievement in innovation and effective management.*

*The mission of the Texas Association of Counties Leadership Foundation is to build leadership capacity among Texas county officials for developing sustainable civil, livable, healthy, and economically viable communities. The Foundation focuses on developing leadership skills, strategic policy planning and disseminating best practices.*

**T**he Leadership Foundation, through its County Best Practices Awards program, each year recognizes and highlights county programs and initiatives for outstanding innovation, achievement and delivery of services. All Texas counties are encouraged to submit nominations of programs/projects for these awards, which are non-competitive. Each nominee is evaluated individually, and awards are presented based on how well a nominee satisfies the basic criteria for each award class and category, as well as the selection committee's standards and restrictions.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION *of* COUNTIES  
**LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION**

# COUNTY BEST PRACTICES AWARDS PROGRAM 2010

## Eligibility Standards and Restrictions

- Programs must be in full operation by the submission deadline;
- Programs must be replicable in other counties;
- Programs must have been established within the previous 36 months;
- Programs must have measurable results; and
- County officials and/or staff in their official capacities must have played a leadership role in development.

## Award Classes and Criteria

### **INNOVATION**

Awards for innovation are given to programs that demonstrate a significant level of innovation and streamlining of business procedures that benefit the county and/or public; a new method of operation or solution to a problem; and a measurable and significant increase in productivity, customer service and/or cost savings for the county.

### **ACHIEVEMENT**

Awards for achievement are given to programs that demonstrate performance that resulted in a landmark policy; program or legislative changes in support of county operations; outstanding county leadership in fostering partnerships in the community and other levels of government to maximize resources; and a one-time heroic or extraordinary performance that produced tremendous benefits for the county and the public.

### **SERVICE**

Awards for service are given to programs that demonstrate the implementation of a process or program that significantly improves public access and/or use of county service, is not necessarily high-tech or expensive, and focuses on providing services beyond established performance standards.

## Categories

### **PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS**

This category focuses on programs related to law enforcement, jail operations, juvenile probation, crime prevention, etc.

### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

This category focuses on programs related to youth and family service, employment services, health programs, county hospitals, etc.

### **FINANCIAL/GENERAL MANAGEMENT**

This category focuses on programs related to strategic planning, and financial management and reporting.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

This category focuses on programs related to automated processes and services, Web sites, etc.

### **COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT**

This category focuses on programs related to parks and recreation, transportation, libraries, preservation, environment, and economic development.

## Instructions for Submitting a Nomination

To be considered for a County Best Practices Award, provide specific information about each program and submit that information as a narrative with the nomination form cover sheet signed by your county judge. Complete all sections comprehensively, and write your narrative in a way that a general audience can understand what your program is about.

Samples of well-written, award-winning narratives are available on the TAC Web site at <http://www.county.org/cms/leader/practices.asp>.

# COUNTY BEST PRACTICES AWARDS

## NOMINATION FORM

### I. Program Information

County \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Award Class** (check one)

Innovation

Achievement

Delivery of Services

**Category** (check one)

Public Safety & Corrections

Financial/General Management

Community Improvement

Health & Human Services

Technology

Other

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Signature of the County Judge

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 will be used for promotional purposes. Your summary must include elements of the challenge, solution and results.

**Send completed nomination to:**

**Kali O'Neill, Texas Association of Counties**

P.O. Box 2131, Austin, TX 78768

[kalio@county.org](mailto:kalio@county.org) or FAX: (512) 478-0519

**Nomination must be received by 5:00 p.m., April 21, 2010.**



P.O. Box 2131 • Austin, Texas 78768  
(512) 478-8753 • (800) 456-5974 • [www.county.org](http://www.county.org)

Please photocopy if needed for additional space.