

Georgia County Excellence Awards

ACCG, Georgia's county association, and Georgia Trend, the state's leading business publication, have partnered once again to offer the Georgia County Excellence Awards. Designed to accentuate the innovative and cost-effective work of county government, this program provides a way to recognize the outstanding efforts of county commissioners, staff and community partners through programs and initiatives that positively impact the lives of your county's residents.

This year, the theme for the Georgia County Excellence Awards is Innovation. Counties are often challenged to provide innovative services with minimal resources. Counties will be recognized for their innovative efforts in the following categories:

- Health Care
- Infrastructure and Transportation
- Public Safety
- Sustainability
- Technology

This year, two counties, one rural and one non-rural county, will be recognized in each of the five categories. See the Georgia County Excellence Awards Eligibility Standards & Award Criteria for more information.

BENEFITS OF SELECTION:

Counties that are selected as a Georgia County Excellence Program recipient will be recognized as follows:

- Feature article in the March issue of Georgia Trend magazine, the state's leading business publication which reaches more than 50,000 subscribers monthly
- Website links to the Georgia Trend article to feature on your county's website and other communications outlets and to share with community partners
- Recognition before your peers during the 2020 ACCG Annual Conference
- Custom award plaque
- Localized news release and photo from ACCG Annual Conference

Also, all counties that submit a nomination will have a short description of their project included in the special ACCG Annual Conference Wrap-Up E-Newsletter. This will allow ACCG to highlight a greater number of counties and allow your county to potentially serve as a resource to counties facing similar opportunities and challenges.

County Excellence Submission Guidelines

DEADLINE: MONDAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020

Nominations for the Georgia County Excellence Awards Program must include:

- Application Form
- Program/Initiative Description
- 2–3 High Resolution Digital Photographs (at least 300 dpi)
- Up to 4 Supplemental Attachments (see below for more on supplemental attachments)

PROGRAM/INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION

The program/initiative description may not exceed four double-spaced pages in length and must address the following items:

1. Brief summary of the program/initiative, including:
 - Main purpose and goals
 - What need it addresses
 - How and when it was developed and implemented
 - Cost of the program and how it is financed
 - Staffing
2. What is the current and expected future impact of the program/initiative (include specific results)?
3. How is the program/initiative innovative? Does it apply new methods, techniques, or procedures that are not commonly used?
4. Are citizens, community groups, or other governmental entities, nonprofit organizations or businesses involved in its development and implementation?
5. Can the program/initiative be adapted and replicated in other counties?

SUPPLEMENTAL ATTACHMENTS

The nomination may include up to four supplemental attachments, such as:

- Photographs, videos, or CD-ROMs
- Press clippings, brochures, or other promotional materials
- Reports or fact sheets documenting results/data

Nominations must include one copy of the application form, the program/initiative description, digital photographs and any supplemental materials and be *received* no later than:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Email applications to Schuyler Harding at sharding@accg.org

or mail them to: Georgia County Excellence Awards

Attn: Schuyler Harding

ACCG | 191 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 700 | Atlanta, GA 30303

YOU MAY ALSO ACCESS THE APPLICATION AND ITS ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS AT WWW.ACCG.ORG.

Eligibility Standards & Selection Criteria

AWARD DESIGNATIONS

Up to two awards will be given in each of the five categories. One rural and one non-rural county will be recognized in each category.

Rural is defined by the State Office of Rural Health as having a population of 50,000 or less. Camden and Liberty counties are legislatively designated as rural counties.

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

- Any county in the state is eligible to submit an awards application.
- Individual counties may submit a maximum of 2 applications each year. When possible, counties are encouraged to combine several projects into one application. A county is eligible for only one award per year.
- A county may submit a regional program for consideration that includes multiple counties within one program/initiative. For the purpose of the population designation, the regional program will be placed into the population category (rural or non-rural) of the largest county within the program/initiative.
- Any county elected or appointed official may submit the application with the signature of the chief elected official.
- A key component must have been implemented after January 2017, and the program/initiative must have been in operation long enough to have produced some demonstrable results. Key components include budgetary decision making and staff assignments.
- The application must demonstrate that county officials and/or staff had a vested involvement in developing and implementing the program/initiative.

SELECTION CRITERIA

An independent panel of judges will score applications based on the six criteria for a maximum of 100 points.

(Criteria 1: Up to 5 points can be awarded for each objective met for a maximum of 25 points)

1. The program/initiative meets one or more of the following objectives:

- Improves the quality or the administration of county programs
- Addresses important problems and/or meets specific needs in the community
- Offers improved services to county residents
- Enhances the overall community quality of life
- Can be adapted or replicated in other counties

(Criteria 2–6: Will be scored on a scale of 1 to 15 (for a maximum of 75 points))

2. The program/initiative was cost effective and/or utilized creative funding sources.
3. The program/initiative is innovative and applies new methods, techniques or procedures that are not commonly used.
4. The program/initiative has produced measurable results (e.g. cost savings, improved service delivery, etc.) and promises to have a long term, sustainable benefit for the community.
5. The development and implementation of the program/initiative involved community members and/or engaged nongovernmental groups and organizations as partners.
6. The program/initiative promotes intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing shared problems.