



# 2018

VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

# INNOVATION AWARDS

Recognizing Excellence  
in Virginia Local Government

# CALL FOR ENTRIES

## 2018 VML Innovation Awards

THE 2018 VML INNOVATION AWARDS celebrate your hometown successes and all that you do to make your city, town or county a great place to live.

The Innovation Awards recognize outstanding achievements in local governments across Virginia. This program-and its successor Achievement Awards- is 40 years old and is recognized as Virginia's highest honor in local government creativity.

Don't miss this opportunity to spotlight programs that have made a big difference to your residents – to celebrate innovative solutions that address emerging needs. The awards are presented at a banquet at VML's Annual Conference in early October.

### Criteria

Projects and programs are judged on how well they demonstrate the following:

- Innovative problem solving**
- Improved quality of life**
- Excellence in management**
- Making the most of local resources**
- Increased citizen participation**
- Long-term value to the community**
- Adaptability to other communities**

Award-winning projects typically demonstrate innovative ways of delivering services, address a community need, or significantly improve an existing service.

### Categories

Award categories are based on broad topics with local governments of all sizes competing within these categories. The panel of judges have years of experience in local governments of varying sizes and will judge the scope and effect of the project in relationship to the community's size, thereby putting all localities on a level playing field.

Many projects relate to more than one category. When deciding what category best fits your project, consider what the primary goal of the project is and what aspect of it demonstrates the greatest innovation.

Localities may submit one entry in each category. The categories are:

#### **Lifelong Learning**

Each year one award will recognize the initiative promoted by the current VML President. This year the initiative is lifelong learning. Included in this category are programs aimed at people of any age, from birth to the end of life, that promote continued learning, expansion of boundaries and emphasis on the transforming effects of education.

#### **Community & Economic Development**

This includes business development and retention; international competitiveness; infrastructure development and investment; planning, land use and zoning; blight; enterprise zones; housing; transportation; workforce development; and historic preservation.

#### **Environmental Quality**

This includes natural resources and the authority of local governments to manage the environment, including water resources and quality, solid and hazardous waste management, air quality and the Chesapeake Bay.

#### **Quality of Life**

This includes state-local and inter-local relations, information management and personnel, telecommunications, utilities, law enforcement, jails and courts issues, social services, health, behavioral health, juvenile justice, recreation, rehabilitation and aging.

#### **Communications**

This includes promotional campaigns, branding campaigns, crisis plans, events, customer service programs; media can include online, video, print, social and other formats.

# President's Award for Innovation

One winning project from the category winners will be selected for the top prize – the President's Award – and will receive this top honor in addition to the award in their category. The President's Award can come from any of the categories listed on the left.

## Deadline

**All entries must be received via e-mail by 5 p.m., Monday, Aug. 13, 2018.**

## Rules for entering

- All entries must be submitted electronically via email. Localities must download the entry form at [www.vml.org/education/innovation-awards](http://www.vml.org/education/innovation-awards) and fill in all of the requested information directly on the form. The completed form must then be e-mailed to [mtimbreza@vml.org](mailto:mtimbreza@vml.org).
- The competition is open to all VML local government members.
- Entries must cover new projects or programs completed between Jan. 1, 2017 and May 1, 2018, or – for existing projects – entries must cover major enhancements that occurred between Jan. 1, 2017 and May 1, 2018.
- Each entry form must be fully completed and must be signed by the local government's chief administrative or elected official.
- A local government can only submit one entry in each of the five categories. The President's Award for Innovation is not a separate category.
- Supporting materials totaling no more than 10 pages, including photos, brochures, charts, or other information, can be included in a separate document. This document must also be e-mailed. If you wish to submit one video as part of your supporting materials, send a link to the location of the video to [mtimbreza@vml.org](mailto:mtimbreza@vml.org). Maximum length of video is five minutes.

## Questions?

For more information about completing your entry or other details, contact VML's Manuel Timbreza at [mtimbreza@vml.org](mailto:mtimbreza@vml.org) or call 804-649-8471.

## The judging

Entries are screened by VML staff and judged by a panel of judges chosen for their expertise in local and state government. The judges generally represent a variety of backgrounds, including small and large localities and state agencies.

## The winners

Awards will be presented at the VML annual conference in Hampton, September 30 - October 1. All winning entries will also be featured in articles in the *VML Virginia Town & City*.

Don't miss this premiere opportunity to spotlight innovative programs that make your town, city or county a great place for people to call home!





# Official Entry Form

*This is an electronic fill-in-the-blank form. You may save it to your computer as a working document. Once completed, simply e-mail this form as an attachment following the instructions below.*

## Reminder:

*Choose the best category for your project. A single project cannot be judged in multiple categories.*

Select one category for your project below:

- Lifelong Learning
- Community & Economic Development
- Environmental Quality
- Quality of Life
- Communications

Name of Locality \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Project \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*All entries require the endorsement of the locality's chief elected or appointed official. By typing your official's initials in the space provided below, you certify that this entry is endorsed by the official.*

Chief Official's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Type initials here to serve as the official's signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Tell us about your project

Please answer all eight questions about your project. Answers should be specific and concise. **Each response must be no more than 300 words.** *Note: double spacing and extra returns can increase your word count.*

- 1. Provide a brief summary of your project or program.**
- 2. Describe the need or challenge that prompted the program.**
- 3. How does this project demonstrate (an) innovative solution(s)?**

**4. How did the project make efficient and effective use of local resources?**

**5. How does this project impact the long-term quality of life for citizens in your community?  
(please provide quantifiable, measurable results)**

**6. How does this project promote citizen participation?**

7. **How does this project demonstrate excellence in municipal management and commitment to higher levels of service?**

8. **How could this project be adapted for use in other cities, towns or counties?**

## Supporting documents and instructions for submitting your entry

Please compile all supporting materials into a **single Word or PDF document of no more than 10 pages total**. Supporting materials may include photos, brochures, charts, maps, or other data. This document must also be e-mailed. If you wish to submit one video as part of your supporting materials, send a link to the location of the video to [mtimbreza@vml.org](mailto:mtimbreza@vml.org). **Maximum length of video is five minutes.**

**Deadline:** This entry form and any supporting documents must be e-mailed to [mtimbreza@vml.org](mailto:mtimbreza@vml.org) by **5 p.m, Monday, Aug. 13**. **Paper entries are not permitted.**

**Questions:** Please contact Manuel Timbreza at [mtimbreza@vml.org](mailto:mtimbreza@vml.org) or by calling 804-649-8471.