



2019

VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

INNOVATION AWARDS

Recognizing Excellence
in Virginia Local Government

CALL FOR ENTRIES

2019 VML Innovation Awards

THE 2019 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. The program – which began under the name “Achievement Awards” 43 years ago - 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 and to celebrate innovative solutions that address emerging needs. The awards will be presented at a VML’s Annual Conference in early October in Roanoke.

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.



City of Falls Church - 2018 Environmental Quality and President’s Award winner.

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 below:

Community Health

Includes building healthy community environments through active lifestyle programs, nutrition education and improving access to healthier food choices.

Economic Development

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.

Public Safety

Includes police, fire, rescue services, emergency planning and coordinated response, building code enforcement, jails, health and mental health related to public safety.

Working with Youth

Includes civics education, pre-k-12 education, summer programs, parks and recreation, and literacy programs

Communications

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.



Deadline

All entries must be received via e-mail by 5 p.m., Monday, Aug. 12, 2019.

Rules for entering

The competition is open to all VML local government members.

All entries must be submitted electronically via email. Localities must download the entry form at 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.

Entries must cover new projects or programs completed between Jan. 1, 2018 and June 1, 2019, or – for existing projects – entries must cover major enhancements that occurred between Jan. 1, 2018 and June 1, 2019.

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.

NEW THIS YEAR: A video is also required as part of your supporting materials, include the URL (or web address) of that video. 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 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 Roanoke, Oct. 6-8. All winning entries will also be featured in *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.

Select ONE category for your project below:

Reminder:

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

- Community Health
- Economic Development
- Environmental Quality
- Public Safety
- Working with Youth
- 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 summary of your project or program starting with the need or challenge that prompted the program.

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

3. How does this project impact the long-term quality of life for citizens in your community?

4. How does this project promote citizen participation?

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

Supporting documents included with 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 attached document must also be e-mailed with your entry.

New this year: Supporting video link included with entry

A video is required as part of your supporting materials, include the link to the location of the video below. Only one video will be accepted with a **maximum length of five minutes**.

Deadline: This entry form and any supporting documents must be e-mailed to mtimbreza@vml.org by **5 p.m, Monday, Aug. 12, 2019**. **Paper entries are not permitted.**

Questions: Please contact Manuel Timbreza at mtimbreza@vml.org or by calling 804-649-8471.