



HARVARD Kennedy School

ASH INSTITUTE

for Democratic Governance and Innovation

For more information, contact:

Kate Hoagland

Ash Institute

617-495-4347

kate_hoagland@harvard.edu

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL'S ASH INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES TOP 50 INNOVATIONS IN GOVERNMENT

***Innovations in American Government Awards Top 50 Programs to Compete
for \$100,000 Award***

Cambridge, Mass., – April 15, 2008 – The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School today announced the Top 50 Programs of the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards competition. Selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 applicants, these programs represent the best in government innovation from local, county, city, tribal, state, and federal levels.

Established in 1985 at Harvard Kennedy School by the Ford Foundation, the Innovations in American Government Awards Program is designed to improve government practice by honoring effective government initiatives and encouraging the dissemination of such best practices across the country. Over its 20 year history, the Innovations in American Government Program has honored 181 federal, state, and local government agencies.

Many award-winning programs are now replicated across policy areas and jurisdictions, serving as forerunners for today's reform strategies and new legislation. Such programs also inform research and academic study at Harvard Kennedy School and other academic institutions around the world. In the midst of widespread cynicism in government, the Innovations in American Government Awards Program provides concrete evidence that government is working to improve the quality of life of citizens.

Each of the Top 50 programs underwent several rounds of rigorous evaluation from a committee of practitioners and policy experts from Harvard Kennedy School as well as renowned institutions nationwide. Selected programs address a number of important

policy areas including health and social services; management and governance; community and economic development; education and training; criminal justice; transportation and infrastructure; and the environment.

Representing a range of jurisdictions from across the country, the Top 50 Programs include seventeen cities/towns, four counties, six federal agencies, three school districts, nineteen states, and one tribal government. Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Maine have multiple programs represented in the Top 50.

“The 50 best innovations for the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards demonstrate effective solutions to some of our nation’s most pressing issues,” said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Awards Program, Harvard Kennedy School. “From child welfare reform and improvements in homicide case review to promotion of our nation’s parks, these programs are improving the way we live our daily lives.”

“We commend the innovative initiatives of these Top 50 Programs,” said Gowher Rizvi, director of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation. “In their path to finding new ways for doing the public’s business better, these programs are paving the way for nationwide - and even global - reform strategies.”

Finalists will be announced on June 3, 2008. On June 12, 2008, finalist programs will present their initiatives before the National Selection Committee, chaired by David Gergen. The event is free and open to the public. The winners of the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards will be announced and honored at an awards gala and reception in September of 2008.

About the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Roy and Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, publications, leadership training, global network, and awards program – developed in collaboration with a diverse, engaged community of scholars and practitioners – the Ash Institute fosters creative and effective government problem-solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world’s citizens. The Ford Foundation is a founding donor of the Institute. Additional information about the Ash Institute is available at www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu. Applicants for the 2009 Innovations in American Government Awards are encouraged to apply at www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu.

2008 Innovations in American Government Awards Program: Top 50

Arizona

Construyendo Circulos de Paz/Constructing Circles of Peace

Santa Cruz County, Arizona

Santa Cruz County's Constructing Circles of Peace program is a long-term, restorative justice counseling program that brings together multiple stakeholders – the perpetrator, victim, family, and community – in response to crimes of domestic violence.

Election Reporting System

Maricopa County, Arizona

Maricopa County's Election Reporting System is an online database for capturing and categorizing information, recording the source, and assigning resolution to staff that receive instant notification based on the issue category.

Getting Ready: Keeping Communities Safe

State of Arizona

Arizona's Department of Corrections' real world re-entry effort, Getting Ready, begins the day inmates are admitted and continues throughout their sentence. This system-wide reform measurably reduces relapse, revocations, and recidivism.

California

Bank on San Francisco

City and County of San Francisco, California

Bank on San Francisco addresses the needs of unbanked residents by moving the marketplace to offer suitable financial products. Through a coalition of 15 financial institutions, the original goal of banking 10,000 unbanked San Franciscans was met in just one year.

Neighborhood Action Team

City of Stockton, California

In a collaborative Action Team partnership, the Stockton Police Department is using market-based policing and code-enforcement strategies as the foundation of an innovative renaissance movement in a distressed neighborhood.

Operation Archangel

City of Los Angeles, California

The City of Los Angeles's Operation Archangel, in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security, developed Automated Critical Asset Management System, a secure interoperable web-based system to manage critical asset information.

Welcome Back Center

State of California

San Francisco's Welcome Back Center assists internationally trained health professionals as they pursue re-entry into the health workforce.

Colorado

Climate Wise

City of Fort Collins, Colorado

Climate Wise is a voluntary program that assists local businesses in Fort Collins to reduce greenhouse gases and increase cost savings by reducing consumption. Climate Wise provides businesses with practical tools, measurement techniques, and public recognition.

Connecticut

De-Illumination

Town of Old Saybrook, Connecticut

The focus of Old Saybrook's De-Illumination Program is the reduction of streetlamp wattage and the elimination of roadway illumination in order to save money, reduce fossil fuel consumption, and limit illumination pollution.

Family Civil Intake Screen Process

State of Connecticut

Connecticut's Family Civil Intake Screen Process is a scientifically-validated, comprehensive assessment methodology designed to identify parenting conflicts and match the dynamics of the family with a corresponding array of evidence-based alternative dispute resolution services.

No Child Left Inside

State of Connecticut

Connecticut's No Child Left Inside initiative reconnects families to nature by exposing them to outdoor recreational opportunities, thus growing healthier kids, fostering environmental stewards, and showcasing the joy of playing outside.

District of Columbia

Positive Youth Development

City of Washington, District of Columbia

The District of Columbia's Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services is becoming the nation's first juvenile justice agency based on the tenets of Positive Youth Development, an effort to meet the needs of young people by building their competencies and enabling them to become successful adults.

Florida

School Improvement Zone

Miami-Dade County School Board, Florida

Thirty-nine chronically low-performing schools in the Miami-Dade County Public School District are provided extended day and school year instruction that utilizes research-based educational materials and focuses on literacy as the core component.

Kentucky

Arts Toolkit

State of Kentucky

An arts-education partnership led by Kentucky Educational Television, Arts Toolkit created multimedia classroom resources that have expanded student experiences and engagement in the arts, boosted teacher preparedness, and improved test scores.

Maine

Child Welfare Reform

State of Maine

Maine has achieved child welfare reform over the past six years through conscious, data-driven management, driven by the vision that every child needs a family.

Youth Leadership Advisory Team

State of Maine

Maine's Youth Leadership Advisory Team, a national pioneer, engages youth in foster care with state and federal policymakers to create significant improvements in child welfare policies, legislation, and programs.

Maryland

Lethality Assessment Program

State of Maryland

Maryland's domestic violence Lethality Assessment Program is an on-scene process by which law enforcement immediately identifies and links victims at risk of being killed to service providers.

Responsible Community and Economic Development Initiative

City of Baltimore, Maryland

Baltimore, through the Responsible Community and Economic Development Initiative, addresses the physical, economic, and human conditions of a neighborhood in one comprehensive plan and is seen as the new model for revitalizing the nation's cities.

Massachusetts

Creating Consensus for Balanced Growth

Town of Barnstable, Massachusetts

The Town of Barnstable restructured town government and established programs to increase citizen participation in order to implement creative smart growth strategies that protect its historic character and natural environment.

Demand Response Program

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Demand Response Program is a no-cost contract that motivates and facilitates the use of regional utility programs by state agencies. This Commonwealth of Massachusetts program protects the electrical grid and has earned over \$500,000 for state facilities.

Foreclosure Intervention Initiative

City of Boston, Massachusetts

Boston's Foreclosure Intervention Initiative is a comprehensive proactive strategy designed to curb mortgage foreclosures on owner-occupied homes and prevent blight through foreclosure prevention and foreclosure intervention.

MassDocs

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MassDocs makes affordable housing development in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts easier by creating one set of loan documents that simplifies the closing process, saving time and money.

Teacher Residency

Boston Public School District, Massachusetts

The Boston Teacher Residency, the Boston Public Schools' own teacher recruitment, preparation, and retention program, takes a medical residency approach to addressing the issue of teacher quality for a major city.

Teen Prostitution Prevention Project

Suffolk County, Massachusetts

Suffolk County's Teen Prostitution Prevention Project is a partnership among criminal justice, child protection, legal advocacy, and others who believe that only genuine collaboration can yield positive outcomes for prostituted youth. This non-traditional alliance affords increased safety and well-being for often forgotten victims of exploitation.

Michigan

Leadership Academy

State of Michigan

The strategic purpose of Michigan's Leadership Academy is to select high potential leadership candidates and accelerate their development over two years to prepare them to step into high-level positions.

Traffic Safety Management System

Oakland County, Michigan

For 41 years, Oakland County's Transportation Improvement Association has developed a "culture of traffic safety" with its innovative traffic management system focusing on programs that support the 3E's of traffic safety: engineering, education, and enforcement.

Missouri

Division of Youth Services

State of Missouri

A national model for juvenile justice reform, Missouri's Division of Youth Services has achieved exemplary results and cost effectiveness through regionally-based, small, humane treatment centers; group and family systems approaches; universal case management; and community engagement.

New Jersey

Jersey Fresh Marketing Program

State of New Jersey

The Jersey Fresh Marketing Program is a promotional and quality-grading effort aimed at emphasizing the freshness, safety, and superior quality of New Jersey agricultural products.

New Mexico

Home Program

City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Santa Fe Home Program requires 30 percent of new ownership housing and 15 percent of rental housing to be affordably priced, based upon earnings of 50 percent to 100 percent of the area median income.

New York

Acquisition Fund

City of New York, New York

New York City's Acquisition Fund is a \$230 million partnership that finances the purchase of land and buildings for affordable housing. Private finance tools allow smaller developers to compete in a tough market.

Officers Management Institute

City of New York, New York

The Fire Department of the City of New York's (FDNY) Officers Management Institute, a customized management training program for senior fire and EMS chiefs, has catalyzed the FDNY's rapid enhancement of operational and technological capabilities to meet the complex challenges of a post-9/11 world.

Project Zero

City of New York, New York

New York City's Department of Probation's Project Zero enhances public safety and reduces the number of juvenile delinquents removed from home and incarcerated in New York State facilities through family-focused, community-based programs.

North Carolina

Homicide Cold Case Squad

City of Charlotte, North Carolina

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Cold Case Homicide Squad pairs detectives with a volunteer review team that determines which cold homicide cases are worthy of reinvestigation and conducts analyses.

Learn and Earn

State of North Carolina

North Carolina's Learn and Earn Initiative allows high school students to jumpstart their college education or gain job skills without the burden of tuition expenses.

Oregon

Home Again

City of Portland, Oregon

Home Again is a plan to end homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County by focusing on the chronically homeless, coordinating access to services, and investing in programs that offer measurable results.

Lobbying Entity Registration and Reporting Program

City of Portland, Oregon

To create transparency in government, Portland requires lobbying entities to register with the city and report whom they lobbied and the subjects discussed. Elected officials are also required to report any gifts over \$25.

Pennsylvania

Fresh Food Financing Initiative

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's Fresh Food Financing Initiative increases access to fresh, affordable food by providing grants and loans to supermarkets and grocery stores in underserved communities.

Managed Fee for Service/Access Plus

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

ACCESS Plus is a groundbreaking way to deliver health care services to low income children and families that takes the incentives for prevention and disease management found in managed care and adapts them to fee-for-service settings.

South Carolina

Family Violence Reduction Project

City of West Columbia, South Carolina

West Columbia's Family Violence Reduction Project uses enhanced investigation techniques in combination with advanced technology to curb domestic violence; child and elder abuse and neglect; and sexual assault within the city.

South Dakota

Outdoor Wellness Centers

State of South Dakota

Through the collaboration with the South Dakota Department of Health and the South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation, South Dakota's state parks have become vibrant, outdoor wellness centers.

United States Federal Government

Future Leaders Growing Future Leaders

United States Department of Agriculture

The United States Forest Service cultivates young and new employees as future agency leaders through a self-sustaining development program largely run by the future leaders themselves.

Global Maritime Domain Awareness

United States Department of Transportation

The United States Department of Transportation's Maritime Safety and Security Information System is a novel, low cost, and rapidly deployed, global vessel traffic monitoring system used to enhance Global Maritime Domain Awareness.

In Service Support / Fast-Forward

United States Department of Defense

The United States Navy's Service Support / Fast Forward aligns Navy and Marine Corps funding directly to engineering, logistic, and program management knowledge products in a fully measurable fashion leading to a continually improving organizational response.

Intelligence Community Civilian Joint Duty Program

Executive Office of the President of the United States

The Intelligence Community Civilian Joint Duty Program requires intelligence professionals to complete assignments outside their agency to achieve executive rank, with the goal being to develop leaders that can break through stovepipes that prevented the intelligence community from "connecting the dots" prior to 9/11.

Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation

National Science Foundation

The Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation fosters students' academic, social, and professional integration through summer bridge activities, skills-building, research experiences, mentoring, and scientific conferences. Among 200,000 minority participants annually, more than 25,000 receive Bachelor's degrees.

New Markets Tax Credit Program

United States Department of the Treasury

The United States Treasury's New Markets Tax Credit Program provides tax incentives, on a competitive basis, to induce private-sector, market-driven investment in businesses and real estate developments located in distressed communities.

United States Tribal Government

Solid Waste and Energy Management

Yukon River Tribes

Sixty-six indigenous tribes have improved the solid waste systems on the Yukon River, removing six million pounds of hazardous materials and recyclables through "backhauling" – loading waste onto planes and barges that would otherwise return to the mainland empty.

Virginia

Knowledge Management, VDOT

Commonwealth of Virginia

Knowledge Management supports the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in achieving its mission by strengthening VDOT's ability to share critical knowledge and experiences to improve ongoing processes and products.

Washington

Government Management Accountability and Performance

State of Washington

Washington's Government Management Accountability and Performance program improves government performance by relying on performance measures, citizen participation, and a disciplined approach to executive decision-making to achieve better results.

Partnership Approach to Safe Routes to School

Auburn School District, Washington

This innovation addresses two large-scale problems: transportation inefficiency and childhood inactivity. Partnerships between Auburn School District and community residence and professionals increase safe walking and cycling routes to and from school.

###