



**The Academy for Excellence in Local Governance
County Innovation Award**

Deadline for Nominations: October 6, 2023

The County Innovation Award was established to recognize superb and leading-edge county programs that improve overall quality-of-life and service delivery for a county's residents.

The Honorable Ingrid Turner, retired Prince George's County Circuit Court Associate Judge, MACo Past President, and former Prince George's County Council Member instituted this award during her term as MACo President in 2012. The award is now a collaboration of the University of Maryland School of Public Policy and MACo, with support from the Local Government Insurance Trust.

Award winners will be celebrated at the Welcoming Banquet and Awards Ceremony at MACo's Winter Conference to be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel in Cambridge, MD.

Details for Nomination:

Nominations submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

- Submit nomination letter online form www.mdcounties.org/InnovationsAward no later than 11:59 pm on October 6, 2023. Criteria for nomination letter are included on the next page.
- Nominated program must be operated by a Maryland county government entity, either exclusively or jointly with other government or non-governmental entities.
- Nominator may be any current Maryland county elected official or county staff member.
- Nomination must include a description of the program, the problem it solved or the need it addressed, the population being served, and the results of the program.
- Special consideration will be given to those programs that did not create a burden for the county budget, but were covered by grants, partnership funds, or donations.
- Nominations submitted previously MAY be re-submitted for consideration.
- Programs that have previously won an award are NOT eligible to be re-submitted (though the agency who won the award may be nominated for a different program).
- There will be one Urban and one Rural county winner for this award.

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Hinson at ehinson@umd.edu.

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Criteria for Nomination:

Any current Maryland county elected official or county staff member may nominate a current Maryland county program to receive this award. The following questions will be included on the form:

- 1) What is the name and county of the nominated program?
- 2) How long has the program been active?
- 3) Please provide a BRIEF description (**100 words or fewer**) of the program to be included in the listing of all nominees. This should be a short introduction to the program - what it is, who it serves, why it's valuable - in just one paragraph.
- 4) Please describe (**400 words or fewer**) how the nominated program has met one or more of the following criteria for this award:
 - Addressed a need or solved a problem for the county
 - Added value to county service-delivery, improved quality-of-life for the county's residents, contributed to the economic well-being of the county, or exhibited excellence as a best practice in local governance
 - Did not create a burden for the county budget – was a self-sufficient program, or used grants or partnerships to fund expenses
- 5) Please also provide any additional information that demonstrates why this program deserves the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance County Innovation Award.

TO SUBMIT NOMINATION:

- Complete online form www.mdcountries.org/InnovationsAward before 11:59 pm on October 6, 2023.
- Only nominations submitted through the online form will be accepted.