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## **FINALISTS ARE NAMED FOR INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AWARDS COMPETITION**

### ***Nation's Most Innovative Government Initiatives Compete for \$100,000 Award***

**Cambridge, Mass., – April 3, 2007** – Eighteen unique and effective government programs were announced today as finalists for the 2007 Innovations in American Government Awards by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. These finalists will compete for seven \$100,000 awards.

"These finalists offer tangible results that innovative government leaders can improve public services to their citizens," said Stephen Goldsmith, Director of the Innovations in American Government Program. "When government officials focus on achieving results through innovative thinking, they show that government has the capacity to successfully tackle serious problems while creating efficiencies."

Nearly 1,000 applications were submitted from across the country. The field was narrowed last month to the Top 50 Programs. The next step for the finalist programs is a presentation before the National Selection Committee at Kennedy School on Tuesday, May 15th. The winners will be announced in September in Washington, D.C. at a dinner celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Innovations in American Government Awards.

"Each of these finalist programs demonstrates public sector ingenuity," said Gowher Rizvi, Director of the Ash Institute. "We are pleased to recognize these innovative initiatives and the hardworking individuals who dedicate themselves to the public good."

The eighteen finalists for this year's awards are:

**Automated Community Connection to Economic Self-Sufficiency**

**State of Florida**

Florida redesigned and modernized its process for determining eligibility for public assistance. The ACCESS Florida model is streamlined, cost efficient, and nationally recognized for excellence.

**Antenatal & Neonatal Guidelines, Education & Learning System (ANGELS)**

**State of Arkansas**

ANGELS, with collaborators University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas Medicaid, Arkansas Medical Society, and Arkansas' physicians, uses telemedicine, a 24-hour call center, and evidence-based guidelines to improve obstetrical healthcare.

**Capital Improvements Management Office**

**Kansas City, Missouri**

The Capital Improvements Management Office was created to deliver essential infrastructure projects while streamlining approaches to project delivery. This resulted in the delivery of over \$1.2 billion in capital projects throughout Kansas City.

**Center for State Adoption and Policy Research**

**State of Tennessee**

The Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data is a unique partnership among state child welfare agencies, their membership association and child welfare researchers. Center technology allows members to track agency performance, assess program efficacy, compare performance across jurisdictions and project future service needs.

**Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (CLEAR)**

**City of Chicago, Illinois**

Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (CLEAR) is the enterprise information system for the entire Chicago Police Department and one of the most sophisticated information systems in the nation.

**Climate Protection Initiative**

**City of Seattle, Washington**

The Climate Protection Initiative accelerates climate protection action citywide and in hundreds of other cities, catalyzing grassroots action around the country and promoting essential state and federal policy changes.

**Community Care**

**State of North Carolina**

Community Care is a physician-led Medicaid managed care program of local provider networks serving 745,000 patients. The networks improve quality and access to care while saving millions of dollars.

**eCityGov Alliance**

**Puget Sound region , Washington**

eCityGov Alliance web portals erase barriers across silos of government service and deliver best business practices between departments and across jurisdictional boundaries. Citizens, businesses and jurisdictions all work together to save time and money.

**Electronic Court Records  
King County, Washington**

Electronic Court Records gives court case file users electronic access. Scanning and e-filing have eliminated paper files, resulting in faster processing, desktop access to documents and better security.

**Homeowner's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

The Homeowner's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program is a loan program designed to prevent widespread mortgage foreclosures and distress sales of homes that result from default caused by circumstances beyond a homeowner's control.

**Juvenile Justice Continuum of Services and Graduated Sanctions  
6th Judicial District of New Mexico**

The Juvenile Justice Continuum of Services and Graduated Sanctions is composed of an integrated service network of juvenile programs, which have recorded a 70% decline in delinquent offenses since its inception.

**Landbanking for Affordable Housing  
City of Eugene, Oregon**

Eugene's Landbanking Program is central to its affordable housing strategy. The Landbanking Program has acquired over 90 acres of land and enabled the development of over 500 affordable units.

**Overt Drug Market Strategy  
City of High Point, North Carolina**

The Overt Drug Market Strategy is a law enforcement/community partnership that collapses drug markets, reduces violence by directly engaging dealers and their families, creates predictable sanctions and offers a range of services.

**Renewable Energy Mitigation Program  
City of Aspen, Colorado**

The Renewable Energy Mitigation Program combines a progressive energy code, an onsite renewable energy requirement and a mitigation payment to make homes contribute to and drive economic development in renewable energy markets.

**Science Engineering Mathematics and Aerospace Academy  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

SEMAA is a national project designed to increase participation and retention of historically underserved and underrepresented K-12 youth in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

**Urban Land Reform Initiative**

**Genesee County, Michigan**

The Urban Land Reform Initiative is a self-sustaining economic model which connects tax foreclosure with management and disposition of vacant and abandoned property to stabilize neighborhoods and improve the value of urban land.

**Vacant Property Registration Fee Program****City of Wilmington, Delaware**

To curtail the growing number of vacant properties, the Vacant Property Registration Fee Program was established to assess registration fees to all property vacant in excess of one year. The annual fees are based on the total number of years of vacancy and have effectively offered a deterrent to owning vacant property.

**Water System Conservation Program****City of San Antonio, Texas**

The Water System Conservation Program enhances economic opportunity and preserves the quality of life for the citizens of San Antonio by being the cheapest, best choice in resource management.

The Innovations in American Government Awards is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation. The Ash Institute advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, publications, leadership training, global network, and awards program, 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.

**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](http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu). Organizations are encouraged to apply to the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards by October 15, 2007 at [www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu](http://www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu).

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