



For more information, contact:
Kate Hoagland
Ash Institute
617-495-4347
kate_hoagland@harvard.edu

THREE CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE INITIATIVES NAMED AMONG THE NATION'S MOST INNOVATIVE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Cambridge, Mass., – May 1, 2007 – Three creative government initiatives benefiting children and families were named today as finalists for the Annie E. Casey Innovations in American Government Award in Children and Family Service Reform. The award is made possible by a partnership between the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. These finalists will compete for a \$100,000 award. One award winner will be announced in Fall 2007. –

“These three finalists demonstrate that effective and creative governmental initiatives can make a difference in improving the futures for children and improving children and family service programs,” said Douglas W. Nelson, president of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. “We are delighted to fund this awards competition for the second year. Each of the finalists has a mission and novel approach to their work that meshes well with Casey’s work to narrow the gap in opportunities and the outcomes between America’s more advantaged kids and its most vulnerable population.”

The three finalists, chosen for their novelty and exceptional efforts, effectiveness in addressing significant problems, and potential for replication by other government entities, are:

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.

Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data 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.

Juvenile Justice Continuum of Services & 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.

“Together with the Annie E. Casey Foundation we are committed to supporting government leaders who devise inventive methods to better serve disadvantaged children and their families,” said Stephen Goldsmith, Director of the Innovations in American Government Awards Program. “By recognizing these inspirational initiatives, we hope to restore the public’s trust in the nation’s child welfare system.”

The Innovations in American Government Awards National Selection Committee, chaired by David Gergen, will select the winner of the Annie E. Casey Innovations Award in Children and Family System Reform, as well as the six winners of the Innovations in American Government Award. Each winning program will receive a \$100,000 grant to encourage replication of its innovation in other jurisdictions. The Innovations Awards winners will be announced in September at a dinner celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Innovations in American Government Awards in Washington, D.C.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation works to build better futures for disadvantaged children and their families in the United States. The primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families.

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. Organizations are encouraged to apply to the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards by October 15, 2007 at www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu.

###