May 24, 2012

VACo Achievement Awards
1207 East Main Street
Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed is the County of Albemarle's application for consideration for the 2012 VACo Achievement Awards.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this competitive awards program with other government members of the association.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Foley
Albemarle County Executive

TF/bk

Recognizing the Best in County Government Programs!

2012 Achievement Awards

Virginia Association of Counties

ATTN: 2012 Achievement Awards Program
Virginia Association of Counties
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Va. 23219-3627

Call for Entries

2012 VACo Achievement Awards

Deadline: June 1, 2012

Virginia Association of Counties

Application Form

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. Deadline: June 1, 2012.

Program Information

Locality _Albemarle County_

Program Title _Innovative Leaders Institute_

Program Category _9 - Organizational Development_

Contact Information

Name _Lee Catlin_

Title _Assistant to the County Executive_

Department _County Executive_

Complete Mailing Address _401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902_

Telephone # _(434)296-5841_   Fax # _(434)296-5800_

E-mail _lcatlin@albemarle.org_

Signature of county administrator or chief administrative officer

Name _Thomas C. Foley_

Title _County Executive_

Signature* _Thomas C. Foley_

*Entries without this signature will not be accepted.

Description

The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive awards program open to local government members of the association. The awards program is held annually to recognize local government programs that exemplify innovation, model practices, partnering or collaboration with other local governments, a private enterprise or state and federal government. Please encourage all county departments to apply!

Eligibility

All local government members of the Virginia Association of Counties, which are in good standing with the association, may participate. There is no limit to the number of applications a county may submit.

All applications must comply with the following standards:
1. The program must have become operational before Jan. 1, 2012, and must be currently operational.
2. Local government officials and/or staff must have played a significant role in developing and implementing the program, with only limited assistance from outside experts and/or consultants.
3. All steps in the application must be completed.
4. Awards will be given to departments or units, not individuals.
5. Programs that have received a previous VACo Achievement Award are ineligible.
6. The program must meet one or more of the criteria outlined below and must be signed by the county administrator or chief administrative official before submission.

Criteria for Selection

The nominated program must meet one or more of the following criteria:
1. Offer an innovative solution to a problem, situation or delivery of services.
2. Promote intergovernmental cooperation and/or cooperation with local, state and federal entities and/or a private enterprise in addressing a problem or situation.
3. Provide a model that other local governments may learn from or implement in their own localities.
4. Programs may be based on programs from another public or private entity but must represent innovative approaches or customization by the local government.

Website

To view past Achievement Awards winners and all the entries from the 2011 competition, visit www.vaco.org/AchievementAwards.html.

Questions?

Contact Gage Harter, VACo's Communications Director, at (804) 343-2502 or gharter@vaco.org. Additional application forms are also available at www.vaco.org.

Categories

Program Categories:
1. Community/Economic Development
2. Customer Service
3. Communications (public relations)
4. Criminal Justice & Public Safety
5. Health/Human Services (youth, elderly and others)
6. Information Technology
7. Parks and Recreation
8. Transportation
9. Organizational Development
10. Environmental
11. Regional Collaboration

Rules

Rules of entry:
1. All entries must be submitted in duplicate. Mail two copies of each entry bound in a notebook or presentation folder. Include the entry form, all appendices and supplemental materials, photographs, DVD, etc. Additionally, submit one copy in electronic format--PDF or WORD file (e-mail electronic entry to gharter@vaco.org).

2. Entries must be typed and double-spaced. State the problem, challenge or situation faced by the locality and how the program fulfilled the awards criteria (innovation, partnering or collaboration and a model for other localities). Tell how the program was carried out, including financing and staffing, and the program's results. Be concise and submit no more than eight one-sided typed pages plus photos or supporting materials.

3. Include a short overview of the program (no more than one page double-spaced) that can be used as a quick reference guide for judges. Please include the application form.

Judging

Entries will be judged by a three-member panel selected for their expertise in local government. When there are no selected nominations, no award will be made. One entry will be named "Best Achievement."

Award Presentation

Award plaques will be presented at VACo's Annual Business Meeting on Nov. 13, 2012, in Bath County. The winning entries will be featured in a booklet that will be distributed during VACo's Annual Conference, and winners will receive a special ribbon to be worn on their nametags. Winners will be recognized on the VACo website and in a news release sent to statewide media. A VACo staff member also attends Board of Supervisors meetings to present an award.

Deadline

All entries must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2012, and mailed to VACo Achievement Awards, 1207 East Main St., Suite 300, Richmond, Va., 23219-3627. Entries will not be returned.