

Recognizing the Best in County Government Programs!



2012 Achievement Awards

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

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 Chesterfield County
Program Title Adolescent Reporting Program (CARP)
Program Category 4 - Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Contact Information

Name Deborah Dugger
Title Director
Department Adolescent Reporting Program (CARP)
Complete Mailing Address PO Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832
Telephone # (804)748-1857 Fax # (804)748-1295
E-mail duggerd@chesterfield.gov

Signature of county administrator or chief administrative officer

Name _____
Title _____
Signature* _____

*Entries without this signature will not be accepted.



2012 VACo Achievement Awards

Deadline for Entry: June 1, 2012

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.

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Overview

Chesterfield County Adolescent Reporting Program (CARP) is a cooperative effort between the 12th District Juvenile Court and Court Service Unit with assistance from the Chesterfield Department of Mental Health Support Services, Chesterfield County Public Schools, the Chesterfield Health Department and Chesterfield Juvenile Services. The program is a sanction for youth ages 14 to 17 who are on probation in Chesterfield and Colonial Heights. The day component targets probationers who are suspended or expelled. The evening program targets youth who are in school, but who have violated their probation. The youth receive educational assistance, mental health services group or referral, health information, prosocial skills training, life skills education and service learning opportunities. The goal of the program is to teach youth the skills they need to get off of probation and to complete high school. The program replaced the Youth Group Home, which was found to house primarily youth who would return home at the end of their stay. By remaining at home, CARP clients continue to have family support and maintain community supports.

The Problem/Need for the Program

Chesterfield County participates in state funding for juvenile justice initiative from the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act administered by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. In its biannual review of funded programs, the high cost of the residential Youth Group Home was striking. In the spirit of continuous improvement, the county juvenile services team embarked on a study of all programs, but particularly alternatives to the expensive residential program. The results showed that 98% of youth placed residentially returned to their parents. Youth referred did not require removal for safety concerns, more often, they were inadequately supervised. Moreover, these same young people were being removed from the schools and neighborhoods that might provide support and that they would ultimately return to.

In its efforts, the team looked at the continuum of services for juvenile justice-involved youth and determined that a less restrictive alternative could still meet the program goals of reducing recidivism and increasing school attendance at a much lower cost.

Description of the Program

CARP is a day and evening reporting program for youth ages 14 – 17 who are on probation in Chesterfield and Colonial Heights. Youth are either referred by probation or ordered by a juvenile court judge to participate in CARP.

The day portion of the program serves youth who are suspended or expelled from school or attend an alternative evening education program. Chesterfield County provides a case manager and a relief counselor to supervise clients, transport them to the program and prepare USDA eligible meals. Chesterfield County Schools provides coordination through its Office of Student Conduct and a homebound instructor for eligible students. Day clients complete the program when they return to school or graduate.

The evening program targets youth who have violated probation, but remain in school. Homework assistance, employment skills and service-learning opportunities are the provided. In addition, youth complete the program utilizes the Casey Life Skills Assessment and corresponding courses. Evening clients are expected to actively participate for 30 days in order to successfully complete the program.

Both day and evening clients receive abbreviated versions of the evidence-based groups Thinking for a Change and Aggression Replacement Training. The Department of Mental Health Support Services holds a substance abuse group at the program since most youth are referred for failed drug screens. The health department provides weekly educational groups on a variety of topics related to healthy relationships. The cooperative Extension Service provides classes on nutrition. The program staff offer a Basic Food Safety Certificate approved by the Health Department. Family support groups are provided by the Colonial Heights Office on Youth.

The goal is for youth on probation to comply with probation rules and complete the school year successfully.

Responding to Economic Downturn

As the idea of a non-residential alternative to the Youth Group Home took shape, the in 2008, the economy took a downturn. The timing could not have been better.

While the efficiency improvement was an attractive alternate, the reduction in funding made the change a necessity. Chesterfield's VJCCCA allocation was cut by 19% in 2009. In 2010, there was an additional 8% cut. The Youth Group Home would not have been able to sustain such financial reductions without dramatic changes in operating hours and numbers of youth served. The fact that a plan was in place made the transition manageable. In fact, it is likely that the entire program would have been cut had there not been a previous study of options.

The Cost of the Program

The first year of operation cost \$457,000. The program utilizes the former Youth Group Home building, so there were no capital expenditures. The program was initially designed to serve 24 youth from 8am until 8 pm Monday through Friday.

The average daily population was about half that, so the Juvenile Services team met periodically to assess efficiency. Ultimately, the staffing was reduced from 4 full

time Case Managers and one Administrator to Two Full time Case Managers, two part time Relief Counselors and one Administrator.

In addition, benchmarking with similar programs revealed that most programs were 4 to 6 hours long while CARP was 12 hours long. The program was divided into two programs, a day and an evening, which functionally were already in place. In that way, the per diem reflected the two programs more accurately

After the changes to the first year of operation, the current budget is \$332, 500. The CARP program participates in the National School Lunch Program. We provide breakfast, lunch and a snack to students. We believe the additional expense is worthwhile since our students do not always have the opportunity to eat a healthy meal.

As a prt of the program, youth are required to participate in Service Learning opportunities. The youth completed 2450 hours of community service (\$20,650 at minimum wage). This returned to the county almost the equivalent of a full time position.

The Results/Success of the Program

CARP Reduced costs by 40 percent over the Youth Group Home. 93 percent of youth completed the program successfully. 2 youths graduated high school. 2 youths

completed their GED. 2 youths were accepted to attend the local Community College.