



## GENERAL OVERVIEW

The VACO Achievement Awards is a free competitive awards program open to local government members of the association. The 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! Entry deadline is June 1, 2016.

## ELIGIBILITY

All local government members of the Virginia Association of Counties 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 January 1, 2016, 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.

## MORE INFORMATION

To view past Achievement Awards winners and all the entries from the 2015 competition, visit [www.vaco.org/membership/achievement-awards](http://www.vaco.org/membership/achievement-awards).

Contact Gage Harter, VACO Director of Communications, at 804.343.2502 or [gharter@vaco.org](mailto:gharter@vaco.org). Additional application forms are also available at [www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org).



## PROGRAM CATEGORIES

**(Program categories are used as a guide and are not considered in judging)**

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Communications (Public Relations) | 2. Community & Economic Development |
| 3. Criminal Justice & Public Safety  | 4. Customer Service                 |
| 5. Environmental                     | 6. Health & Human Services          |
| 7. Information Technology            | 8. Organizational Development       |
| 9. Parks & Recreation                | 10. Regional Collaboration          |
| 11. Transportation                   |                                     |

## RULES OF ENTRY

1. All entries must be submitted in electronic format--PDF or WORD document. Please e-mail the electronic entry to [gcharter@vaco.org](mailto:gcharter@vaco.org). Supplemental materials or hard copies may be mailed but are not required. **Please include application form (Page 3).**
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.
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.
4. Include a brief summary of the program (3-4 paragraphs) that could be used for press releases, brochures, etc.

## JUDGING

Entries will be judged by a three-member panel selected for its expertise in county government. One entry will be selected as "Best Achievement" and will be honored as the top program for the given year.

## AWARD PRESENTATION

Award plaques will be presented at VACo's Annual Conference held on November 13-15, 2016, in Bath County. VACo staff members also will attend Board of Supervisors meetings to present awards. 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.

## DEADLINE

All entries must be dated no later than June 1, 2016, and e-mailed to Gage Harter at [gcharter@vaco.org](mailto:gcharter@vaco.org). As an option, supplemental materials or hard copies can be mailed to VACo Achievement Awards, 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, Va., 23219-3627.

**If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry, please contact Gage Harter at 804.343.2502 or [gcharter@vaco.org](mailto:gcharter@vaco.org).**



## APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2016.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Category: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_