

VACo 2008 Achievement Award Program Descriptions

Albemarle County: Public Planning Program and Staff/Management Resources Intranet Site (Communications)

The development of Albemarle County's public participation planning program by the Community Relations Department began with the recognition that more and more citizens expect to participate in decisions that affect them. The county also recognized that involving citizens would ultimately create a more successful project that better meets community needs.

Officials knew that to build strong relationships with the community members, they would need to assure that their participation was meaningful and that expectations for their participation were clear.

Bath County: Free Dental Program (Health & Human Services)

Bath County is a rural, sparsely populated county of 5,073 people, and is nestled in the Allegheny Mountains on the western border of Virginia. As a result, it is often difficult or impossible for some residents to receive the health care and services they need.

The Rural Health Outreach Consortium was formed to sponsor community wellness programs for Bath County. Through the consortium, the Free Dental Program was started.

The first time the program was offered on Oct. 19-21, 65 patients were treated.

Chesterfield County: Central Virginia Most Wanted (Criminal Justice & Public Safety)

The program was developed by Chesterfield County personnel and is a partnership effort among area law enforcement, corrections and media professionals. Development of www.centralvirginiamostwanted.com and regular exposure through local media has increased public awareness and enhanced opportunities for reporting information.

As a result, participating agencies are realizing an increase in information provided by residents regarding the whereabouts of fugitives.

Cumberland County: Cooperative and Budget-Minded Approach to an Innovative Countywide Communications System (Information Technology)

Cumberland County deployed a comprehensive countywide IP-based communications system. The project took two years to complete but was the genius of an unprecedented collaboration of volunteer first responders, state and federal agencies, county administration and Board of Supervisors.

The project budget required a mere 10 percent out-of-pocket cost to the county. Fiscal prudence and forethought reduced the entire budget of the system to an estimated one-quarter the cost for a comparable system.

Fairfax County: Healthy Women: Healthy Babies (Health & Human Services)

In the spring of 2007, the Fairfax County Health Department responded to the “Request for Results” made by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to reduce the number of babies who die in the first year of life.

Fairfax County was awarded \$100,000 by the VDH to implement the Saving Babies Initiative as part of a statewide campaign to reduce infant mortality. In 2005, approximately 8 percent of Virginia’s infant deaths occurred in Fairfax County. Based on that figure, Fairfax County is dedicated to saving seven of the Commonwealth’s goal of 80 prevented infant deaths.

The Saving Babies Initiative is an excellent example of how local government can bring together a diverse community of providers and citizens, with little resources, and create a lasting impact.

Fauquier County: Recycling Innovations (Environmental)

In 2005, Fauquier County was faced with the twin dilemmas of potentially losing several million dollars of annual revenue in the near term and the loss of locally available landfill capacity within several years.

Today, the county has truly outstanding processing facilities in place to allow cost effective diversion of recyclable materials from the landfill waste stream. Future programs and services will be designed to take advantage of these new systems to maximize material diversion.

Isle of Wight County: GIS Cemetery Layer for Historic Preservation Best Practices (Information Technology)

Isle of Wight County developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) layer and corresponding database for the identification of gravesite locations and features within the county.

This innovative model for tackling the difficult issue of identifying historic cemeteries using the county’s technological system stands out in light of one of the most pressing problems facing Virginia’s historic resources today—the loss of cemeteries through neglect or endangerment by land development.

James City County: Succession Management Assignments: Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders (Organizational Development)

While temporary assignments may be commonplace, succession management assignments are distinctive due to the frequency, regularity, duration and level of authority attached to them.

They are annual, six-month assignments providing hands-on, real-time experience in key, top-level positions such as assistant county administrator, budget director, community services director and public information officer. Twenty-five employees have completed assignments since its implementation in 2003.

Loudoun County: Career Development Program (Organizational Development)

The evolution of this professional career development plan contributes to the success of the county's overall mission. Developed in response to individual career goals and expectations, the program answers a variety of county needs while using minimal resources.

This program has allowed the Office of the County Assessor to streamline the career development process of each employee by establishing a framework for succession planning, developing a reputation as a continuous learning organization and delivering exemplary service to internal departments as well as the entire county.

New Kent County: New Kent University (Communications)

New Kent University (NKU), a citizen education program, is designed to give participants a first-hand look and in-depth understanding of how county government functions in New Kent.

The free program explains services provided by New Kent, how its governing process works and how citizens can participate in that process. Through hands-on activities and lectures, participants have learned how local government affects quality of life.

Prince William County: Mediation Swap (Customer Service)

Prince William County and Alexandria City Human Rights Commission (HRC) began a mediation swap in October 2005. The purpose of the swap was to maintain a firewall between mediation and charge investigations, a new contractual requirement by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

The program has allowed both agencies to meet the EEOC requirements with little or no cost. It has fostered a closer working relationship between the two offices. This successful program can easily be duplicated.

Spotsylvania County: Patriot Park (Environmental)

Patriot Park is a 134-acre facility featuring two basketball courts, 12 baseball, softball and multipurpose fields that are surfaced with Patriot Bermuda Grass as well as other

areas that are surfaced with 5.9 acres of Fescue sod. The entire construction process took 10 months at a cost of less than \$7 million.

Patriot Park's answer to irrigating the facility and potential water restrictions came as an innovative idea that changed the design of the irrigation process and its components. The park uses 100 percent recycled and natural water to irrigate its 12 athletic fields, making it a facility that incorporates modern and environmentally friendly measures.