

2017 COUNTY SUMMIT AWARDS

Recognizing county programs that deliver positive impact through creative innovation



Celebrating **The Next Great Idea** For Arizona's Counties

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00 P.M. Monday September 18, 2017



Innovation For County Success

The Arizona Association of Counties and the AACo Foundation invite you to enter the 2017 County Summit Awards competition.

These unique awards recognize the innovative and creative spirit of Arizona county governments as they find new and effective ways of providing services to their citizens.

Read the following pages for instructions and consider entering your county’s most innovative programs and/or projects to win one or more of these awards.

Winners will be honored at the 2017 Annual Conference November 17, 2017 and presented with their awards during the Summit Awards Breakfast.



Recognizing Innovation in County Government across Numerous Categories

SUMMIT AWARD CATEGORIES

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC INFORMATION
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & MANAGEMENT
COURT ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT
CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

ELECTIONS & VOTER REGISTRATION
EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
HEALTH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LIBRARIES
PARKS & RECREATION
YOUTH & EDUCATION

MERIT AWARD CATEGORIES

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
RURAL INNOVATION
URBAN INNOVATION
SUBURBAN INNOVATION
INNOVATION OF THE YEAR



GENERAL INFORMATION

Two levels of awards are possible in each category: **Summit** and **Merit** Awards. Judges will consider all Summit Award entries for Merit Award categories. Summit and Merit Awards will be presented in person and on stage at the 2017 AACo's Annual Conference. In the event that a multi-county application is honored, each county will receive an award. All recipients will be notified on completion of judging on October 18, 2017. If you have questions, contact: info@azcounties.org or call 602-252-6563 ext. 222.

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Complete Official Entry Form** [click here](#).
2. **Obtain a letter of Endorsement.** This is simply a letter signed by either the County Elected Official or the County Administrator with oversight of the program/service applying, authorizing the entry of the program/project in the County Summit Awards completion. A county may submit one letter for multiple entries so long as each entry is listed in the Endorsement Letter.
3. **Construct your "Executive Summary."** This is your statement of the challenge your project/program overcame. The Executive Summary is very important. It must be **no more** than two 8.5 x 11 single-spaced pages. Please include contact information on the summary. Since this will be published for statewide distribution, please present the information as you would like to see it in print. AACo reserves the right to edit this material.
4. **Submit your entry and contact information.** Please **email** your entry in its entirety to info@azcounties.org with "2017 County Summit Award Application" in the Subject Line. In the body of your message, please submit:
 - A. A copy of the 25-Word Summary from the Executive Summary
 - B. Name of Submitting County
 - C. Category
 - D. Entry Title
 - E. Contact Information

ENTRY FEE

\$50.00 per entry. A check payable to "**AACo Summit Awards**" must be submitted for EACH entry. Entry fees must be received by the application deadline. To submit entry fees by credit card please contact Sue Anderson at 602-252-6563 x 221.

DEADLINE

All entries must be **RECEIVED** by 5:00 p.m. on Monday September 18, 2016. Late entries will not be accepted. Entries cannot be returned.





ORGANIZE YOUR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AS FOLLOWS

Overview: Provide a brief, 25-word summary of your program or project

Problem or Challenge: Describe the problem or challenge your county faced and the process used to address this problem. Explain the unique or critical factors that led to this project.

Budget/Costs/Savings: How much money was budgeted to fund this program/project? List all sources of funding for the project. Did the program/project come within/under the budget? What costs were involved? Please also quantify savings that were realized as a result of program/project. What is the measure of increased productivity or time saved?

Results: Describe the results of the program/project. Discuss how the program or project has positively affected the community improved delivery of services to the public, or improved delivery of services to the public, or improved administration of a program internally.

Project/Program Contact: List the name, title, mailing address, phone and email address of the person who can be contacted about this program/project.

Optional Submission: If your project involved the development of a video or CD, please enclose one copy. Videos/CDs will not be returned and become the property of the AACo Foundation. Please limit supporting material— such as brochures, final reports or other information—to items that are directly relevant to this project.

Deliver of Entries with Supporting Information: Entries choosing to submit supporting information described above must submit the materials with the complete entry with the supporting materials by MAIL to 2017 County Summit Awards, Arizona Association of Counties & AACo Foundation, 1910 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85009. Mailed entries must be RECEIVED by September 18, 2017. Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted. Mailed entries will not be returned.

SELECTION CRITERIA

A panel of county and private sector officials will evaluate the entries. Judges' decisions are final. The following criteria will be used by the judges to select the winners:

- Statement of the problem & solution
- Innovation, resourcefulness, vision, uniqueness and risk-taking
- Capacity for program/project to be replicated in another Arizona county
- Cost-effectiveness of the program/project
- Conformance to application instructions set forth in the "Entry Instructions" in this brochure.



TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

- Judges will be looking for programs/projects that are innovative, unique & easily replicable. County programs/projects must have been in existence for at least one year at the time of the application.
- Only programs/projects that are county programs/projects will be considered. Those that have previously received a Summit Award are not eligible to enter again for the same program/project. Previous Merit Award recipients are eligible.
- All entries will be considered for Special Award categories at the judges' discretion.