

Missouri County Achievement Awards 2017



Deadline: October 6, 2017

What did you achieve this year ?

2017

MAC County Achievement Awards

Entry Instructions

1. Fill out official entry form on the next page.
2. Obtain a letter of authorization. This is simply a letter signed either by your county executive or presiding commissioner authorizing the entry of the county's program(s) in the Achievement Awards competition. Counties may submit one (1) letter of endorsement for all entries, but please list each entry by program name in your letter of endorsement.
3. Construct your executive summary. This is your statement of the challenge and the solution. Your executive summary is a very important part of your entry. It must be no more than three 8 1/2 by 11 double-spaced pages. Since this may be published for statewide distribution, please present the information as you would like to see it in print. MAC reserves the right to edit this material.

Show Us How You Do It!

The Missouri Association of Counties (MAC) invites you to enter our 2017 Achievement Awards Competition.

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

Please read the following instructions and consider entering your county's program(s)/project(s) to win one or more of these awards.

Judges will be looking for programs that are innovative, unique and easily replicable. County programs or projects submitted must have been in existence for at least one year.

Only programs that are county programs will be considered.

Selection Criteria

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

Statement of the problem and solution.

Innovation, resourcefulness, vision, uniqueness, and risk-taking.

Replicability of the program/project.

Cost-effectiveness of the program/project.

Entry Form

You may type this information on a separate sheet and submit it as page 1 of your entry:

County Name (for joint submissions, please list all counties involved)

Contact Name and Title

Mailing Address

City	State	Zip
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Phone	Ext.
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E-mail

Title of this entry
(to be used on this award—seven words maximum)

General Information

All recipients will be notified by mail upon completion of judging in the fall.

Achievement Awards will be presented at MAC's November 19-21 Annual Conference and Expo.

In the event that a multi-county application is honored, each county will receive an award.

If you have any questions, contact Carah Bright, MAC communications, at 573-634-2120.

E-mail: cbright@mocounties.com

Remember to include the following for each entry:

- Completed entry form.
- 3-page executive summary.
- Copy of endorsement letter authorizing entry.

(One letter may be used for multiple entries, but please include a copy for each entry.)

Mail or deliver all of the above to:

Missouri Association of Counties
516 E. Capitol Ave., PO BOX 234
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0234

or e-mail to:
cbright@mocounties.com

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.

Solution - Describe the steps taken by the county to solve the problem or overcome the challenge.

Budget/Cost/Savings - How much money was budgeted for funding the project?

List all sources of funding for the project.

Did the project come within/under budget?

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 administration of a program internally.

Project or Program Contact - List the name, title, mailing address, phone and e-mail address of the person who can be contacted about the program.

Optional Submission - If your program involved the development of a video, brochure or CD, please enclose one copy. Items will not be returned and become the property of MAC.

Congratulations to Last Year's Winners!

Audrain County -- "Maximizing Opportunities & Resources for Employment"

The Audrain County Commission learned that new rules from the federal government now require sheltered workshops to transition some of their employees to the community workforce and pay them minimum wage. However, most sheltered workshops struggle to find companies to partner with and even pay subsidized rates. The Audrain County Commission partnered with five different groups to develop a COE program for high school students with special needs. Mexico Public Schools provided a job coach for the students to give them on-the-job training for an easier transition into the workforce. Audrain County was in need of part-time custodial work and offered to be the first employer to participate. The county hired Katie Lauer, a junior at Mexico High School. Katie now comes with her job coach three days a week from noon until 3 pm. Her job coach is with her to see that the jobs are done properly, and Katie receives a paycheck.

Cape Girardeau County -- "Establishment of a Juvenile Justice Center"

Since 1966, Cape County has had difficulties in finding a permanent home for its Juvenile Justice Center. The county worked with a vendor to evaluate facilities currently in use versus what would be needed in the next 25 years. It was estimated that the Juvenile Department would need approximately 10,000 sq. ft. for adequate space. An available building was located which included two acres of property to support future expansion, outdoor program space, and storage. The county had between \$750,000 and \$1 million budgeted for the project from a capital improvement bond surplus, a general revenue capital improvement fund, and various other sources with local business donations among them. Cost-savings were realized by utilizing the County Building and Grounds Department for much of the build-out and finish work. Courtroom furnishings were purchased through Missouri Vocational Enterprises. Some equipment from the previous location was moved to the new building, and office furniture was obtained from Federal GSA Surplus. Final costs were approximately \$800,000.

Greene County -- "Strategically Communicating Transparency Through Open-Book Management"

Greene County adopted the practices of open-book management to improve its cash balance and more accurately forecast revenues and expenditures on a monthly basis with an open discussion format. A more visible "Financial Dashboard" website tool, launched with a re-engineered website, now provides a user-friendly portal to access weekly staff "huddle" meeting reports and monthly budget projections, including the county's operating cash balance. This archive also educates about the county's finances and explains where tax dollars go.

The cash reserve was at approximately \$2 million at one point in 2011. In 2015, the county was able to bring that balance back up to more than \$11 million. Photos and videos from weekly "huddles" posted on social media help humanize the transparency. This all contributed to building a more tangible way to achieve transparency and educate the public regarding the county's finances.

Randolph County -- "Mobile Election Center"

Randolph County Clerk Will Ellis determined that having a mobile unit would solve the problem of ensuring that voters' needs were met. The Randolph County Ambulance District was contacted about vehicles that could be recycled for use as voting stations. The ambulance district replaces their ambulances on a regular schedule. Ambulances are purchased with public funds, so acquiring an ambulance with its onboard independent power generator from the ambulance district was both simple and relatively inexpensive. A few modifications were made to the interior to transform it. A small portion of the funds from the county clerk's office miscellaneous fund was used. A government grant was used to transform the exterior of the vehicle. The mobile voting unit cost Randolph County and its residents relatively nothing.

Taney County -- "Septic Tank Pump-Out Program"

The Taney County Commission through the Department of Environmental Services created a program that offers free septic tank pumping for residential properties in the county. It is important that the county's waters and their quality be maintained and protected. The county commission created the Septic Tank Pump-Out Program which also has an educational component which teaches residents to properly maintain their septic systems. In 1993, voters approved a ½-cent sales tax that would be spent only on water quality and wastewater capital improvement projects. The issue was approved and currently generates approximately \$7.5 million dollars per year. The county commission has approved a portion of the annual revenues received through the sales tax to be used as a funding source for the program.