

TEXAS ASSOCIATION *of* COUNTIES

2026 COUNTY BEST PRACTICES AWARDS PROGRAM

Nomination Deadline: March 31, 2026

Recognizing Outstanding Achievements and Innovations in County Government

The County Best Practices Awards Program recognizes the efforts of county leaders in creating new, efficient and effective solutions to challenges facing local governments. These solutions include innovative programs, increased delivery of services and superior achievements in all areas of county operations. Examples include financial and general management, public safety and corrections, health and human services, technology, community improvements and other county-related responsibilities.



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What is a Best Practices Program?

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Goals of the County Best Practices Program

- Recognize counties for innovation.
- Inspire county leaders to develop improved programs.
- Create an avenue for promoting replicable and proven solutions to common county concerns.

Nominating a Program

To be considered for a County Best Practices Award, please fill out the official nomination form and complete a detailed narrative about the program. Write your narrative so that a general audience can understand what the program is about. You are encouraged to include any additional information (photographs, exhibits, news media coverage, etc.) that helps describe the program.

Recognition of Award Recipients

Recognition of award recipients will include:

- Presentation of Best Practices Award in your county.
- News release for your local media.
- Recognition in *County* magazine, and on the TAC website and TAC social media.

Eligibility Criteria and Standards

The program should demonstrate **Superior Innovation**, **Outstanding Achievement** and/or **Exceptional Delivery of Service**.

Superior Innovation means the program demonstrates a significant level of innovation or streamlining of procedures that benefit the county and/or the public; a new method of operation or solution to a problem; or a measurable and significant increase in productivity, customer service and/or cost savings for the county.

Outstanding Achievement means a program or action that results in a landmark policy, program or legislative change in support of county operations; outstanding county leadership in fostering partnerships in the community and other levels of government to maximize resources; or a one-time heroic or extraordinary performance that produces tremendous benefits for the county and/or the public.

Exceptional Delivery of Service means a program that demonstrates the implementation of a process or program that significantly improves public access and/or use of a county service, is not necessarily high-tech or expensive and focuses on providing services beyond established performance standards.

Guidelines

- The program should have been established within the previous 24 months.
- The program should be in full operation by the submission deadline.
- The program should have measurable or demonstrable results.
- The program should be replicable or scalable to benefit other counties.
- County officials or staff in their official capacities must have played a leadership role in development of the program.
- The program should not be a substantial replication of a previous Best Practices Award recipient.

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Nomination Form

1. Complete this entry form and attach it to the narrative. The narrative should address the Eligibility Criteria and Standards as described on page 2. Narratives should not be longer than six pages.
2. Forms may be emailed to BestPractices@county.org or mailed to Texas Association of Counties, Attn: Best Practices, 1210 San Antonio St., Austin, TX 78701.
3. The narrative description of a County Best Practices Awards program should include the following:
 - a. The challenge or concern that prompted the development of the program/project.
 - b. The solution and steps taken to address the problem and an explanation of the objectives and how they were met.
 - c. The results and how the program affected the community and/or county operations.
 - d. A 100-word summary that includes elements of the challenge, solution and results.
4. The deadline for nominations is **March 31, 2026**.

I. Program Information

County

Program title

Official/individual playing significant role

Actual implementation date

II. Authorization

Please check this box to approve the online posting of your winning nomination form.

By checking this box, I authorize TAC to use, exhibit, display, broadcast and distribute in any form the materials I have submitted for the County Best Practices Awards Program.

III. Contact Information *(person to whom correspondence should be sent)*

Name

Title

Department

Address

City/State/ZIP

Telephone

Fax

Email

IV. Signature of the Elected Official or Auditor

Name

Title

Signature _____

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SECTION I—THE CHALLENGE

Discuss the reason this program/project was developed. Talk about the need, concern or problem that prompted its implementation. Provide information about the history of your program/project, and include such information as when it was first started, who started it and where it was started. Explain why your program/project is innovative or new in its approach to solving a need, concern or problem. (Attach additional pages as needed.)

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SECTION II—THE SOLUTION

Describe the steps taken by your county through this program/project to address the need, concern or problem mentioned in Section I. Explain the objectives of the program, and provide information about how each of these objectives were met through all the stages of developing and implementing the program/project. (Attach additional pages as needed.)

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SECTION III—THE RESULTS

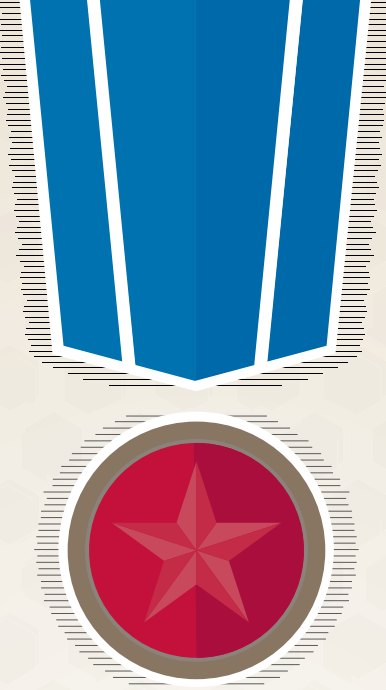
Describe the results of your program/project. Specific data, such as cost savings, service enhancement, etc., or other performance-oriented information will strengthen your application. It's essential that you explain how your community and/or county operations are affected. The selection committee is required to review measurable results. **Information on how your program/project could be replicated by other counties is also helpful.** (Attach additional pages as needed.)

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SECTION IV—SUMMARY

In approximately 100 words, summarize the program/project. This summary may be used for promotional purposes. Your summary must include elements of the challenge, solution and results. Please include any additional information (photographs, exhibits, news media coverage, etc.) that helps describe the program.



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