



California State Association of Counties
1100 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 327-7500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 9, 2014

Contact: David Liebler, Deputy Director of Public Affairs
916-327-7500, ext. 530

MOST INNOVATIVE COUNTY PROGRAMS TO BE HONORED **CSAC ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2014 CHALLENGE AWARDS**

SACRAMENTO – Twelve county programs have been selected to be recipients of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) 2014 Challenge Awards, which recognize the most innovative and cost-effective programs developed by California’s 58 counties. Another 29 programs will be recognized with Merit Awards.

“The CSAC Challenge Awards program exemplifies the very best of county government.” CSAC Executive Director Matt Cate said. “The programs highlighted each year demonstrate how California’s 58 counties are striving to continuously serve their constituents more efficiently and cost-effectively. Innovation is alive and well in California Counties.”

A unique and successful Alameda County program titled “Dig Deep Farms & Produce” was chosen by an independent panel of county experts to receive the California Counties Innovation Award – the top honor presented in the annual awards. Operated by the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department, Dig Deep Farms is located in a region of the county that faces significant challenges, including high crime and mortality rates. The program is dedicated to growing healthy jobs around healthy food. Using an economically and ecologically sustainable model, Dig Deep is community driven and employs local residents to grow fresh, organic produce to meet the needs of the community.

Beyond Alameda County, other counties to be honored with Challenge Awards are: Humboldt, Lassen, Los Angeles, Nevada, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, Sonoma, Stanislaus and Ventura. CSAC will be presenting the awards in these counties at upcoming Board of Supervisors meetings.

Overall, a total of 41 programs from 18 counties will receive one of the three levels of awards: Innovation, Challenge and Merit. The top counties in the 2014 awards are Alameda County –

California Counties Innovation Award, one Challenge & two Merit Awards; San Diego County – one Challenge and six Merit Awards; and Orange County – six Merit Awards.

A complete list of the 2014 award-winning programs is below. For more information on the CSAC Challenge Awards, visit www.counties.org/challenge-awards.

Founded in 1895, the California State Association of Counties is the voice of California counties at the state and federal level.

2014 Challenge & Merit Award Recipients

California Counties Innovation Award

Alameda County
Dig Deep Farms & Produce

Challenge Awards

Under 50,000

Lassen County
Building a Meaningful Relationship

50,001 to 200,000

Humboldt County
Interactive Multi-Site Community Meeting

Nevada County
Nevada County Collaborative Technology Center

200,001 to 700,000

Sonoma County
Youth Ecology Corps

Stanislaus County
Employee Mentor Program (EMP)

700,001 and Above

Alameda County
Engaging 20 Agencies in Climate Action Implementation

Los Angeles County
Care Clinic Innovation – Long Beach Mental Health

Sacramento County
Break Away Bike Program at Sacramento County Adult Day Court

San Bernardino County
Fire Crew Program

San Diego County
Accela Automation Implementation

Ventura County
Digitized Business Reply Mail

Merit Awards

Under 50,000

Alpine County
Memorandum of Understanding with the Washoe Tribe

50,000 to 200,000

Humboldt County
DHHS Mobile Outreach

200,001 to 700,000

Merced County
Leadership for Life Program

Placer County
Co-Occurring Full Service Partnership

Placer County
Improving Service to Our Community

Placer County
Integration of Older Adult Services

San Luis Obispo County
Transitional Age Youth Financial Assistance Program

Tulare County
Step Up #Lead Program

700,001 and Above

Alameda County
Alameda County Assessor Canvassing App (BizChek)

Alameda County
Human Exploitation & Trafficking Watch Community Initiatives

Los Angeles County
Mileage Authorization and Reimbursement System (MARS)

Orange County
Sharing Services to Benefit Assessors & Taxpayers

Orange County
Haster Basin Recreation Park

Orange County
OC Grip Parent Greeter Program

Orange County
Santiago Library System Courtesy Delivery Service

Orange County
Saturday Marriages Openings

Orange County
The Theo Lacy Jail Facility Sustainability Project

Riverside County
Faith in Motion – Organizing to Help Kids

Riverside County
Project HOME

Sacramento County
Rental Housing Inspection Program

San Bernardino County
Campaign to End Human Trafficking

San Bernardino County
Demonstration Property Project

San Diego County
Embedding Eligibility Workers at Local Food Banks

San Diego County
Online Building Permits

San Diego County
Paperless Performance Appraisals

San Diego County
Plan to Eliminate Homelessness for Families

San Diego County
San Diego Emergency Smart Phone Application

San Diego County
Sheriff's Analysis Driven Law Enforcement (SADLE)

Ventura County
District Attorney's Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Program