

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 5, 2008

For more information, contact
David Wert, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-5412
dwert@sbcounty.gov

County honored with 11 national achievement awards

Programs and services created by the County of San Bernardino received eleven 2008 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties. The Board of Supervisors recognized and honored the people and departments responsible for the programs and services during today's Board of Supervisors meeting.

"Our county consistently wins several of these awards, and this year is no exception," said Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Gary Ovitt. "Our county has every reason to be proud."

The NACo Achievement Awards Program recognizes counties for improving the services they deliver to the public. The awards focus on innovation and the use of technology. The county is particularly proud because only seven of California's 58 counties received Achievement Awards this year. The following are San Bernardino County's winning programs:

- **Online Access to Financial Disclosure Statements/Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Gary Ovitt and the Clerk of the Board** – On these forms, elected and appointed county officials are required to disclose any financial interests that could have a bearing on their official decisions. We became the first county in California to post these forms on the Internet. Previously, the public would have to visit a county office to view these forms. To date, the county has had more than 1 million page views on the Form 700 site.

"We are indeed proud of our efforts to post the Form 700s online and the other steps we have taken to make county government more transparent and accountable to the public we serve," Vice Chairman Ovitt said.

- **County Reel/County Administrative Office & Information Services Department** – This project uses the free time prior to board meetings and the board chambers' audio-visual equipment to increase awareness of county services and provide information on how to participate in county government while entertaining those who have gathered for board meetings. The idea came from the ads that are shown on theater screens prior to the start of movies. County Reel eventually became available worldwide to those who view board meetings via the Internet.

-MORE-

Achievement Awards

August 5, 2008

Page 2

- **Disaster Response Mobile Connectivity Solution/Information Services Department –** The county's Information Services network and the Internet have become integral to the ability of emergency responders to cope with a disaster. The county's Information Services Department has made these services portable for quick delivery to emergency centers, where responders can connect with the Internet, e-mail, and other government agencies. This program was most visible during last year's wildfires when it was used to serve the dozens of county, state, federal, and private agencies that came together in the county's Fire Emergency Local Assistance Center at the Orange Show fairgrounds.
- **Emergency Calls/Awareness Program/Aging & Adult Services –** The Department of Aging & Adult Services developed this program to check on the welfare of seniors and disabled adults during a disaster. During an emergency, county staff contacts all affected clients and also reaches out to first responders to alert them to clients' special needs such as those requiring oxygen and those who are bed-bound. This program was used to respond to last year's water crisis in Lucerne Valley, the September 2007 heat wave, and last year's wildfires.
- **Project Facelift/Facilities Management –** Facilities Management staff often finds itself consumed with addressing emergencies and major repair jobs. This program was designed to ensure that attention is paid to minor repairs and smaller projects that make a big difference in improving county workplaces and areas used by the public. Two employees are dedicated toward meeting with building occupants and carrying out these minor but significant projects. These projects include facelifts within restrooms, replacing damaged ceiling tiles and faulty lights, patching and painting damaged walls, and repairing damaged planters.
- **Food Industry and Retail Service Training/Public Health –** This training program designed to teach food industry workers about basic food sanitation and safety dates back to the 1970s. However, prior to 2006 only about a third of those the program was designed to serve were participating. Last year the department enhanced the program via video presentations and the Internet. The number of workers being trained increased 15 percent in the first six months with an additional 6 percent increase projected during the current fiscal year.
- **Integrated New Family Opportunities/Behavioral Health & Probation –** This program developed by Behavioral Health and Probation combines intensive probation supervision with family therapy to reduce crime and incarceration and heal families with troubled youth.
- **International Trade Program/Economic Development Agency –** To better equip local companies with the ability to compete in a global economy, the County Economic Development Agency created the International Trade Office to foster overseas business connections, provide companies with technical education on how to take advantage of import/export markets, and brand the county as a vital global and diverse business region. The highlight of this program has been the 2006 and 2007 China trade missions, from which business delegates reported more than \$217 million in projected transactions.
- **One Stop Transitional Age Youth Center/Behavioral Health –** This program partners with Probation, Public Health, Children's Services, Jobs & Employment, Inland Regional Center, and the Superintendent of Schools to address the needs of children as they enter adulthood to assist them in becoming independent and crime-free.

-MORE-

Achievement Awards

August 5, 2008

Page 3

- **Pathways to Success: Apprenticeship Training Program/Preschool Services Department**
– This program grew out of a need to increase the number of qualified people available to work in our Head Start preschools. The program creates training and work-experience opportunities for prospective Head Start employees, which in some cases helps them qualify for college financial support. Those who go through the program get first-priority interviews with the department. Those who don't get jobs with Head Start are still better qualified for other jobs in the community. Twenty-one graduates of the program have earned jobs with Preschool Services. Five have found jobs with other agencies.

- **Rapid Response Team/Arrowhead Regional Medical Center** – This program at ARMC employs a pager system to respond more quickly than ever to non-critical patients whose condition takes a turn for the worse. Since the program went live in March 2007, Code Blue incidents have dropped 18 percent.