

NEWS

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County budget again garners international recognition

For the second consecutive year, the County of San Bernardino has been internationally honored for being open and accountable to the public.

The county's 2007-08 Fiscal Year Budget has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, the county announced today. This is the second year in a row the county has received this competitive honor.

The award represents a significant achievement by the County of San Bernardino and reflects the county's commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award the county had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories to receive the award.

"The staff of the County Administrative Office works hard each year to create a budget that not only responsibly accounts for and allocates the county's assets, but also clearly communicates to the public what we do with their resources," Board of Supervisor Chairman Paul Biane said. "This award shows we have been successful."

GFOA judges praised the county's budget document for being "outstanding as a communications device" and "very well organized, concise, and user friendly" – a notable task considering the document contains more than 700 pages.

"The budget message is short, but clear, and nicely articulates the issues and challenges for the upcoming year," the judges said. "The document did a very good job detailing budgetary initiatives that were used for budget development."

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The County of San Bernardino's award-winning budget can be viewed on the county's website at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/budget0708/Default.htm>.

The Government Finance Officer's Association is a non-profit professional association serving 16,800 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.