# INNOVATION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

These awards recognize state administration department programs, projects, and initiatives that exemplify leading practices in the industry.

**OPEN PERIOD: MAY 18 - JUNE 29**

**Awards Announced:** The Institute | Scottsdale, AZ | Sept 19 ● **Recipient:** 1 recipient & up to 2 honorees per category

## 2022 Categories:

### Acquisition, Supply Chain, and Stockpiles
Project will include excellence in joint planning, sourcing, and procurement, scheduling of supplier and distributor activities, inventory management, warehousing, customer service.

### Customer Service & Experience
Projects showcase a dedication to internal customer service strategies; building customer agency confidence, trust, and cross-boundary collaboration.

### Digital Services, Data Management, Analytics & Visualization
Projects showcase the transformative power of data for decision making and insight examples: predictive analytics, visualizations, performance management, data governance, data sharing or integration. Digital government projects improve interactions between partners. examples: e-licensing, one-stop registration, permitting, payment, notifications.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Procurement
Projects include measurable vendor diversification, systemic policy change, transparency and ease in purchasing, pre-payments for small vendors, community wealth building efforts, expanding the vendor pipeline.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workforce
Projects will include excellence in removing unconscious bias, hiring, developing, retention representative of state demographics in each agency & leadership.

### Employee Engagement and Experience (includes Strategic Workforce Planning)
Projects showcase Employer of choice initiatives; impact on culture and recruitment/retention; talent growth & development; recognition, health, safety, and wellbeing, work perks, succession planning, and strategic workforce planning.

### Transformation
Projects include prioritizing business process redesign, process improvement, spending where most effective, cost control, sustainable, savings opportunities focused on improved outcomes and customer services.

### Workspace Optimization Initiatives
Project will include excellence in workspaces, including improvements to workforce productivity, sustainability, realigning owned portfolio, co-locating agencies, monetizing surplus property, deferred maintenance optimization, remotely scheduling and managing workplace resources

**NASCA**
National Association of
State Chief Administrators

## Eligibility:

Nominations will be reviewed for eligibility and alignment with the category. The nominator will be notified by July 8 of any concerns with the application.

- State must be a paid member of NASCA
- Submissions must be made by State Chief Administrators (or equivalent) or other state member with the State Chief Administrator's approval
- Nominated programs/projects should have implemented within the last 24 months
- Projects may be led by other agencies/departments, but staff from the administration department must have played a significant role in developing the program or project. (ex: HHS stockpile redesign, Department of Corrections recruitment and retention initiative)
- Only one nomination per state is allowed in each category, not multiple categories. Contact headquarters@nasca.org if you need help on the category selection
- A state may only be recognized as the award winner in two categories, the two highest scoring projects will be selected
- Only completed submissions will be accepted
- Submissions will only be accepted online
- Prior year submissions that were not awarded and have been updated can also be submitted

## Judging Criteria:

Applicants will use a NASCA template that includes an executive summary and narrative of each of the following judging criteria. Visual aids are encouraged and may be included as supplemental material, but scores will be based on the written submission:

- **Innovation: Project Goals/Objectives (25%):** What problem does this address? Why does the problem matter? What unique ways unique approach, scale, or magnitude of effort did the state undertake? What makes this universal and transferable? Goals should be broad and overarching objectives should be expressed in specific and measurable terms.

- **Strategy/Tactics (25%):** Strategy/Tactics should outline the plan, strategy, tactics, resources, team, roadmap used to reach the goals and objectives set.

- **IMPACT: Success Metrics/Outcomes and Efficiencies Achieved (50%):** For the measurement of your goals and objectives applications should indicate the metrics used to measure success and why those measure are a good indicator of what the project was hoping to accomplish. Examples include:
  - Number of hours saved, and hours saved were used in meaningful new ways
  - Employee engagement impact on retention
  - Increased customer satisfaction survey
  - Visits and use of the online data visualization

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# Tips for a strong submission:

1. **Focus on what the project** was intended for and whether it achieved its stated outcomes.
2. **Tell a story** of why this project matters.
3. **Focus on measurable outcomes.** Back up your claims with statistics, visuals, and testimony, especially of the end user and citizen experience. This will be scored by your peers in the industry, but they won't be aware of the obstacles and benchmarking in your state the project had to overcome.
4. **Keep it simple!** Make sure entry is succinct, clear and focused on the judging criteria. Help break up text with key points.
5. Try to **interject your agency's authentic personality.**
6. Take a look at **last year's winning entries** in the Knowledge Center.
7. **Visual Aids,** such as photos, graphs, flowcharts are encouraged.

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