WE’RE SEEKING CREATIVE, EFFECTIVE AND IMPACTFUL STATE PROGRAMS THAT DESERVE RECOGNITION.

The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments is now accepting applications for the State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) program, a regional award for innovative state policies and initiatives demonstrating creativity, impact, transferability and effectiveness. Acknowledging that states are policy innovators, the Southern Legislative Conference seeks to identify and promote successful and transferable ideas and programs from the states throughout the Southern region. To this end, the STAR award presents an opportunity for states to highlight policy successes and contribute toward regional improvement.

The STAR program welcomes applications from a wide array of state agencies, departments and institutions operating within all branches of government. Following the application review process, six finalists will receive the opportunity to present their program to a panel of state representatives and experienced policy professionals from across the region at the Southern Legislative Conference’s Annual Meeting in Savannah, Georgia, July 18 – 22. There, on July 21, two exceptional programs will be selected by the panel of judges as models of efficiency and effectiveness for state governments in the Southern region, and the implementing agencies and legislative or executive sponsors will be honored at the state dinner.
The Southern Legislative Conference is seeking applications for its State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) program.

The SLC recognizes that state employees work hard, not only to provide outstanding services to their citizens, but also by striving to develop and adapt new and improved programs to make their states a better place to live. Such efforts should be recognized, and innovative ideas should be shared among colleagues.

**The SLC STAR program represents an opportunity to highlight successful programs implemented within your state,** especially those that can be replicated across state lines to improve the region as a whole.

State programs are evaluated and graded by the following criteria:

» **Creativity** – Does the program represent a new and creative approach to solving common problems or issues?

» **Impact** – How far-reaching are the benefits and solutions of the program?

» **Transferability** – From a logistical and fiscal standpoint, could the program or practice easily be transferred to other states?

» **Effectiveness** – To what extent is the program successful at addressing an issue, and how efficiently does it operate?

We encourage you to take a few minutes to submit one or more of your state programs for consideration. The **deadline for applications toward this year’s recognition is Friday, May 29, 2015.** More information is available at [www.slcatlanta.org/STAR](http://www.slcatlanta.org/STAR) or by calling our office at (404) 633-1866.

We look forward to reviewing your application.

Sincerely,

Colleen Cousineau
Director, SLC
Deputy Executive Director, CSG

Stephanie Noble
Research & Publications Associate,
Southern Legislative Conference,
The Council of State Governments
APPLICATION CHECKLIST

You may submit an application to the STAR program either online, at www.scatlanta.org/STAR, or by mailing in the application form on the reverse of this page. In addition to the application form, you must submit answers to the program questions. Please submit answers to all of these questions with your application form.

In addition to the application form and program questions, you may also submit supplementary materials, such as videos, reports or presentations. The SLC reserves the right to use or publish the information provided in this application in other SLC products. If your agency objects to this policy, please advise us in a separate attachment.

Program Questions

» How long has the program operated? What was the month and year of initiation?
   Has the program been in operation for nine months to three years? (Note: to qualify, the program must be between nine months and three years old as of May 29, 2015.)

» Why was it created? What problems or issues was the program designed to address?

» What are the specific activities and operations of the program? (Please list in chronological order, if applicable.)

» What equipment, technology and/or software (if any) are used to operate and administer the program?

» What are the annual operational costs of the program? How is it funded?

» Has the program been effective at addressing the problem or issue? Please provide tangible results and examples.

» What measurable impact has the program had? Has it created significant change in your state?

» Did the program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator’s name, present address, telephone number and email address.

» Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does your program differ?

» Is the program transferable to other states? What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter when attempting to adopt this program?
## EXAMPLE POLICY AREAS

### Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Ag Education
- Conservation & Land Use
- Land Preservation
- Parks & Recreation
- Natural Resources
- Trade

### Economic Development, Fiscal Affairs & Transportation
- Business & Commerce
- International Trade
- Revenue
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Tourism
- Public-Private Partnerships

### Public Safety & Corrections
- Corrections
- Courts
- Criminal Justice
- Substance Abuse
- Emergency Management
- Public Safety

### Health & Human Services
- Aging
- Children & Families
- Health Services
- Housing
- Human Services

### Government Operations & Technology
- Administration
- Elections
- Information Systems
- Public Information
- Telecommunications

### Education
- Administration
- Management
- Personnel
- Training & Development
- Workforce Development

### Energy
- Efficiency
- Transmission
- Infrastructure

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**Submit your application...**

- Online at: [www.slcatlanta.org/STAR](http://www.slcatlanta.org/STAR)
- Or by mail to: STAR Program
  Southern Legislative Conference
  P.O. Box 98129
  Atlanta, Georgia 30359

**For more information contact:**

Stephanie Noble
Research & Publications Associate
Southern Legislative Conference

email: snoble@csg.org
phone: (404) 633-1866
fax: (404) 633-4896

**Application Deadline:**
May 29, 2015
THE STAR PANEL

Each year, at the SLC Annual Meeting, six STAR finalists present their programs to an audience of legislators, legislative staff and a panel of policy experts. The panel selects two of the six finalists to receive the STAR award. Last year, 14 judges served on the panel. Six finalists, representing Tennessee, West Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, Virginia and Oklahoma presented in the policy areas of Education Administration, Public Safety, Corrections, and Government Operations and Technology. The following two programs, Feed to Achieve and DMV Connect, received the 2014 STAR Award.

WEST VIRGINIA’S FEED TO ACHIEVE PROGRAM

Through the Feed to Achieve Act signed into law in April 2013, West Virginia’s Feed to Achieve program addresses the three-fold problem of food insecurity as it relates to child poverty, health and education. Implemented by the Office of Child Nutrition, the Feed to Achieve program seeks to provide a minimum of two nutritious meals a day to schoolchildren by way of innovative meal delivery systems, such as grab-and-go breakfasts, breakfast in the classroom, or breakfast after first period. The program’s funding mechanisms, including directed donations and targeted federal grants, enable the program to operate with negligible administrative cost, providing children with free meals. In its first year, 75 percent of West Virginia schools started innovative breakfast programs, serving an additional 40,000 students.

VIRGINIA’S DMV CONNECT PROGRAM

In May 2012, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Department of Corrections launched the DMV Connect program, an innovative, low-cost approach to reducing criminal recidivism by easing the inmates’ transition back into society. The DMV Connect program utilizes a specially manufactured portable equipment case containing a backdrop, camera, signature pad and computer that connects securely to the DMV network and allows real-time transactions. This allows DMV agents to go on location to prepare valid state identification for prisoners upon release—a necessity for finding employment, opening a bank account, obtaining housing, and applying for benefits and services. The DMV has issued more than 4,500 IDs through DMV Connect, and has since expanded services to other populations of limited mobility, including the elderly and disabled.
The Southern Office of The Council of State Governments, located in Atlanta, Georgia, fosters and encourages intergovernmental cooperation among its 15 member states. In large measure, this is achieved through the ongoing work of the standing committees of its Southern Legislative Conference and supporting groups. Through member outreach in state capitols, policy research, international member delegations, staff exchange programs, meetings and fly-ins, staff support state policymakers and legislative staff in their work to build a stronger region.

Founded in 1947, the SLC is a member-driven organization and the largest of four regional legislative groups operating under CSG and comprises the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

The SLC’s six standing committees provide a forum which allows policymakers to share knowledge in their area of expertise with colleagues from across the South. By working together within the SLC and participating on its committees, Southern state legislative leaders are able to speak in a distinctive, unified voice while addressing issues that affect their states and the entire region.