

2018



STATE TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION RECOGNITION for innovative state government programs and services in

Alabama • Arkansas • Florida • Georgia • Kentucky • Louisiana • Mississippi • Missouri
North Carolina • Oklahoma • South Carolina • Tennessee • Texas • Virginia • West Virginia

demonstrating exceptional
CREATIVITY, IMPACT, TRANSFERABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS



APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 18, 2018

STATE TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION RECOGNITION

APPLY NOW TO COMPETE FOR RECOGNITION AS ONE OF THE SOUTH'S MOST EXCEPTIONAL STATE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The Southern Office of The Council of State Governments (CSG) is now accepting applications for its 2018 State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) award for innovative state government programs and services. **The deadline for submitting your program for consideration is May 18, 2018.**

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

Through the STAR award, the Southern Office recognizes creative, impactful, transferable and effective state government solutions. **Innovative program submissions are accepted from a wide array of state agencies, departments and institutions operating within the executive, legislative and judicial governmental branches.**

Following an initial review process, five finalists are invited to present their program to the STAR judges panel—comprising state legislators, legislative staff and

policy experts—convening on July 24, at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. There, two exceptional programs will be selected as models of innovation and efficiency in state governments in the Southern region.

The STAR award represents an opportunity to highlight **successful programs implemented within your state**, especially those with the potential for adaptation across state lines.

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 submit one or more of your state programs for consideration. More information is available at www.slcatlanta.org/STAR or by calling Nick Bowman in our office at (404) 633-1866.



HOW TO APPLY



INSTRUCTIONAL OVERVIEW

You may submit an application for the STAR award online at www.slcatlanta.org/STAR, by emailing star@csg.org, or by mailing the application form, with the required attachment(s), to the SLC office. **To qualify for initial review, applicants must submit answers to the program questions along with the 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.

EXAMPLES OF GOVERNMENTAL POLICY AREAS

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- » Agricultural Education
- » Conservation and Land Use
- » Land Preservation
- » Parks and Recreation
- » Natural Resources
- » Trade

Economic Development, Fiscal Affairs and Transportation

- » Business and Commerce
- » International Trade
- » Revenue
- » Transportation Infrastructure
- » Tourism
- » Public-Private Partnerships

Education

- » Administration
- » Management
- » Personnel
- » Training and Development
- » Workforce Development

Energy

- » Efficiency
- » Transmission
- » Infrastructure

Health and Human Services

- » Aging
- » Children and Families
- » Health Services
- » Housing
- » Human Services

Government Operations and Technology

- » Administration
- » Elections
- » Information Systems
- » Public Information
- » Telecommunications

Public Safety and Corrections

- » Corrections
- » Courts
- » Criminal Justice
- » Substance Abuse
- » Emergency Management
- » Public Safety

2018 STAR AWARD APPLICATION

State	
Policy Area	
Program Name	
Administering Agency	
Contact Name, Title	
Address	
City, State Zip	
Email Address	
Telephone Number	
Web Address	

Submit your application:



Online:
slcatlanta.org/STAR



By email:
star@csg.org



By mail:
STAR Award
Southern Legislative Conference
1946 Clairmont Road
Decatur, Georgia 30033

For more information, contact:

Nick Bowman
Research and Publications Associate
Southern Legislative Conference of
The Council of State Governments

Email: star@csg.org
Phone: (404) 633-1866
Fax: (404) 633-4896

Application Deadline:
May 18, 2018

PROGRAM QUESTIONS

(ANSWERS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION)

1. When was the program established? What was the month and year of initiation?
NOTE: Programs must be between nine months and three years old as of May 18, 2018 (i.e., established between May 18, 2015, and November 18, 2017) to qualify. Older programs will be considered if there has been a significant update or expansion with tangible results in the same time period.
2. Why was the program created? What problems or issues is it designed to address?
3. What are the specific activities and operations of the program? (Please list in chronological order, if applicable.)
4. What equipment, technology and/or software (if any) are used to operate and administer the program?
5. What are the annual operational costs of the program? How is it funded?
6. Has the program been effective at addressing the problem or issue? Please provide tangible results and examples.
7. What measurable impact has the program had? Has it created significant change in your state?
8. Did the program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator's name, present address, telephone number and email address.
9. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does your program differ?
10. Is the program transferable to other policy areas or states? What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter when attempting to adopt this program?

2017 STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

On August 1, 2017, during the 71st Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi, the State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) Judges Panel selected programs from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and West Virginia Department of Education as winners of the 2017 STAR Award.

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION **PRIORITIZING STUDENT VETERANS**

In 2014, the Tennessee General Assembly passed the Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Act, sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris and House Speaker Pro Tempore Curtis Johnson, to promote enrollment and degree completion by veterans in higher education, while also encouraging campuses to develop services and resources for student veterans. The primary components of the legislation include charging in-state tuition for veterans enrolling at public post-secondary education institutions and creating the VETS Campus Designation program to recognize public colleges and universities that demonstrate significant commitment to student veterans.

As of May 2017, 21 institutions in Tennessee have been recognized as VETS Campuses. Since their creation, these campuses have educated more than 8,000 Tennessee veterans, annually. In March 2017, the program was expanded to provide in-state tuition to veterans' dependents, and a new online tool was developed that allows veterans to see how their military occupational specialty equates to academic credit at Tennessee's higher education institutions.

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION **ELECTRONIC APPLICATION PROCESSING SYSTEM**

In 2015, the Department of Education (DOE) created the Electronic Application Processing System to provide a better way for teachers to obtain or renew a West Virginia teaching certification. The traditional teacher certification and renewal process required educators to know which of 43 forms they needed to complete, while requiring the DOE to collect multiple approval signatures from institutions of higher education. To standardize and streamline the process, DOE developed a secure online system that allowed applicants to complete certification and renewal forms online, submit them for approval, and process credit card payments through the state Treasurer's Office. The system has reduced the time needed to process an application from weeks to days. Applicants now receive real-time status updates as their application traverses through the approval process. During the first year of the new system, more than 8,000 applications were submitted.



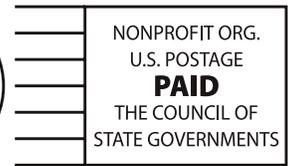
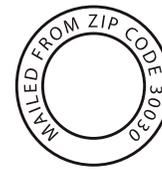
Scott Sloan, Chief of Staff and
General Counsel, Tennessee
Higher Education Commission



Steven Boyer, Project Manager, West Virginia Interactive (left)
and Robert Hagerman, Executive Director, Office of Educator
Effectiveness and Licensure, West Virginia Department of
Education (right)



SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



Southern Office of
The Council of State Governments
P.O. Box 98129
Atlanta, Georgia 30359
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Colleen Cousineau
Director, Southern Legislative Conference
Director, Southern Office of
The Council of State Governments

REGIONAL VIEW NATIONAL REACH

Founded in 1933, The Council of State Governments (CSG) is our nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government. CSG is a region-based forum that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy. This offers unparalleled regional, national and international opportunities to network, develop leaders, collaborate and create problem-solving partnerships.

Opened in 1959, the Southern Office of CSG promotes intergovernmental cooperation among its 15 member states, predominantly through the programs and services provided by its Southern Legislative Conference. Legislative leadership, members and staff utilize the SLC to identify and analyze solutions for the most prevalent and unique state government policy issues facing Southern states. Meanwhile, SLC member outreach in state capitols and coordination of domestic and international delegations, leadership development and staff exchange programs, meetings, and fly-ins support state

policymakers and legislative staff in their work to build a stronger region.

Established in 1947, the SLC is a member-driven organization and the largest of four regional conferences of CSG, comprising the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. The Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference, convened as the focal point and apex of its activities, is the premier public policy forum for Southern state legislators and the largest regional gathering of legislative members and staff. The annual meeting and a broad array of similarly well-established and successful SLC programs—focusing on both existing and emerging state government challenges—provide policymakers diverse opportunities to ask questions of policy experts and share their knowledge with colleagues.