



## Innovations in American Government

An awards program of the Institute for Government Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The awards program is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

# NEWS

### For Immediate Release

November 13, 2002

Contact: Carl Fillichio  
(202) 530-3244  
[cfillichio@excelgov.org](mailto:cfillichio@excelgov.org)

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST CITED FOR HARVARD AWARD

(WASHINGTON D.C.) – Seventeen creative, forward thinking and results-driven federal government programs are among the 99 semifinalists named today for the prestigious **2002 Innovations in American Government Awards**. The awards competition – often referred to as the Oscars of government prizes – is a program of the Institute for Government Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. The award recognizes outstanding programs that devise imaginative and effective ways to meet urgent social and economic challenges. Each semifinalist is eligible for one of five top grants of \$100,000.

The seventeen federal government semifinalists were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 applicants and represent the best and brightest in government from across the country. All dedicated to making federal government work better, the groundbreaking semifinalist programs include four programs from the **Department of Defense** and two programs each from the **Departments of Justice, Transportation, Health & Human Services, and Agriculture**. Individual programs from the **Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Interior, General Services Administration, Library of Congress** and the **Federal Courts** were also cited for their innovation

Four criteria are used to evaluate each application: novelty; effectiveness in addressing important problems; significance; and the potential for replication by other government entities.

Fifteen finalists will be selected from the semifinalists in early winter 2002. The National Selection Committee on Innovations in American Government, chaired by David R. Gergen, editor-at-large, *U.S. News & World Report* and Director of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University, will choose five winning programs after a full day of presentations in May 2003 in Washington, D.C. Each will receive a \$100,000 grant to promote and replicate their innovative efforts.

The Innovations in American Government awards, now in its sixteenth year, promotes excellence, innovation and creativity in the public sector. A program of the Institute for Government Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the awards program is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government. The Institute is funded through an endowment from the Ford Foundation.

**The list of federal semifinalists, including a description of each program and contact information, is attached. A list of all the semifinalists is available on the web at [www.excelgov.org](http://www.excelgov.org)**

-30-



## Innovations in American Government

An awards program of the Institute for Government Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The awards program is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

# NEWS

**Border Wizard (Department of Transportation)** is the official platform to test all border security measures. It is a discrete events operations research tool, capable of simulating all trade facilitation, immigration, security and transportation functions carried out within and approaching border ports of entry and their adjacent transportation networks.

**Press Contact:**

Harry Caldwell  
Border Wizard  
410-544-1704  
kaaldame544@aol.com

**Bridges to Friendship (Department of Defense)** was created by the Navy to revitalize the historic Washington Navy Yard, transforming it from an urban wastesite into a modern military office park. The program served as facilitator, broker and convener, bringing together community groups, business leaders, and local and federal government agencies. Residents of the public and low-income housing that bracket the property were offered job training, business development opportunities, and other improvements that resulted in gains for both the Navy and the community.

**Press Contact:**

David Ouderkirk  
Bridges to Friendship  
202-685-0079  
douderkirk@comcast.net

**Brooks City-Base Project (Department of Defense)** is a partnership between the City of San Antonio and the US Air Force that is converting the Brooks AFB into a technology park, with the Air Force remaining as the anchor tenant. The project reduces costs for both partners, stimulates economic development in the community and enhances Air Force mission activities.

**Press Contact:**

Lawrence Farlow  
Brooks City-Base Project  
210-536-3234

**Centralized Servicing of Rural Housing Loans (Department of Agriculture)** provides single family housing loan and grant service for 500,000 nationwide customers of the Rural Housing Service (RHS). The program supplies subsidized direct loans to low and very low-income families unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere.



## Innovations in American Government

An awards program of the Institute for Government Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The awards program is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

# NEWS

### **Press Contact:**

Taylor Oldroyd  
Centralized Servicing of Rural Housing Loans  
202-720-1019  
toldroyd@rdmail.rural.usda.gov

**Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (Department of Defense)** is a comprehensive benefits system for military members and their families using state-of-the-art technology to ensure prompt and accurate benefit deliver. The system has proven so flexible and adaptive that it has become the platform for many new benefit systems, Defense Department medical programs and the source for current and accurate demographic information.

### **Press Contact:**

Robert Brandewie  
Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting  
System  
831-583-2400  
robert.brandewie@osd.pentagon.mil

**Emergency Responder Training (Department of Justice)** The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CPD) trains emergency responders to deal with terrorist acts involving weapons of mass destruction. Its training programs furnish state and local emergency responders (firefighters, police officers, emergency medical and other public health professionals, bomb squads, and HAZMAT technicians) with maximum information and hands-on training to meet terrorism response capability standards in their respective fields. The Center is the nation's only federally chartered training facility with programs available to state and local emergency responders who must deal with unprecedented terrorist acts at the mass destruction level.

### **Press Contact:**

Johnathan Mangum  
Emergency Responder Training  
256-847-2121  
Jonmangum@yahoo.com

**FirstGov.gov (General Services Administration)** is the federal government's official Internet portal for transactions, services and information. It is the first and only official, single point-of-entry to 35 million federal government web pages and 16 million state web pages.

### **Press Contact:**

Eleni Martin

79 John F. Kennedy Street • Cambridge, MA 02138 • Phone: 617.495.0557 • Fax: 617.496.4602  
E-Mail: [innovations@harvard.edu](mailto:innovations@harvard.edu) • Web: [www.innovations.harvard.edu](http://www.innovations.harvard.edu)



## Innovations in American Government

An awards program of the Institute for Government Innovation at the  
John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The awards program is administered in partnership with the  
Council for Excellence in Government.

# NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, GSA

202-501-1030

[Eleni.Martin@gsa.gov](mailto:Eleni.Martin@gsa.gov)

**Geo-Data Explorer (Department of the Interior)** created GEODE (Geo-Data Explorer), a free website that provides a gateway to a wide range of geological information, from 3-D satellite images (some in real time) to data spreadsheets. Users can retrieve, display, and collect data and analysis; they can also combine the data to design their own maps. GEODE allows its customers, many of them scientists, access to important geographic data without any specialized hardware, knowledge or training.

**Press Contact:**

Adam Schultz

Geo-Data Explorer

540-648-6477

[adschult@usgs.gov](mailto:adschult@usgs.gov)

**Inmate Placement Program (Department of Justice)** strengthens job search and retention skills of criminal offenders, eases their transition back into society, and lowers recidivism rates. While still in prison, inmates learn how to fill out job applications, write cover letters, and search for employment. Job Fairs give them opportunities for interviews by recruiters from major national companies.

**Press Contact:**

Linda Wines Smith

Inmate Placement Program

202-514-6537

[LWSMITH@BOP.GOV](mailto:LWSMITH@BOP.GOV)

**Interagency Cooperation: Aviation Security (Department Of Transportation)** is a multi-agency partnership that provided security in the Salt Lake Winter Olympics area, which was vulnerable to airborne threats. Prior to the Olympics, no system existed in the area to perform this task, so it had to be designed, built and deployed. Each agency brought experience and equipment to the mission, and resources were used flexibly as the agencies worked together.

**Press Contact:**

William Shumann

Interagency Cooperation: Aviation Security

202-267-9294

[William.Shumann@faa.gov](mailto:William.Shumann@faa.gov)



## Innovations in American Government

An awards program of the Institute for Government Innovation at the  
John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The awards program is administered in partnership with the

Council for Excellence in Government

# NEWS

### **National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (Department of Health and Human Services)**

is the nation's first community-based program funded to develop models of comprehensive care for underserved women. The Centers are located in hospitals, community health centers, and one Area Health Education Center.

#### **Press Contact:**

Barbara James

National Community Centers of Excellence in

Women's Health

301-443-1402

[bjames1@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:bjames1@osophs.dhhs.gov)

**Naturalization Ceremonies (Federal Courts)** expands traditional naturalization ceremonies so that new citizens may register to vote and apply for a US passport in one single location. In the past four years, this collaboration of four independent agencies (US District Court, INS, US Passport Agency and LA County Registrar of Voters Office) naturalized 584,000 new citizens, accepted 62,000 passport applications and registered approximately 195,000 new voters.

#### **Press Contact:**

Frank Galvan

Naturalization Ceremonies

213-894-6770

**Pharmacy Data Transaction Service (Department of Defense)** is a central repository for prescription data from all Department of Defense pharmacy services. The PDTS uses a robust, centralized data system to store and analyze information about prescriptions filled across the DoD's vast network of pharmacies, improving efficiency and patient safety by reducing the likelihood of life-threatening drug interactions involving prescription medications. PDTS's interconnection of high-level, disparate pharmacy services is unprecedented in government or civilian healthcare applications.

#### **Press Contact:**

Norma Rumbaugh

Pharmacy Data Transaction Service

703-681-1775

**Recreation Solutions Enterprise Team (Department of Agriculture)** is an internal, interagency business designed to reduce bureaucracy and simplify processes in public recreation services and programs. It helps program leaders from a variety of government agencies manage their recreation-related projects more conveniently and cost effectively,

79 John F. Kennedy Street • Cambridge, MA 02138 • Phone: 617.495.0557 • Fax: 617.496.4602

E-Mail: [innovations@harvard.edu](mailto:innovations@harvard.edu) • Web: [www.innovations.harvard.edu](http://www.innovations.harvard.edu)



## Innovations in American Government

An awards program of the Institute for Government Innovation at the  
John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The awards program is administered in partnership with the

Council for Excellence in Government

while unleashing the creativity of Forest Service employees to develop internal entrepreneurial businesses that make government work better and cost less.

# NEWS

### Press Contact:

Jeni Bradley

Recreation Solutions Enterprise Team

928-443-8280

[jenibradley@fs.fed.us](mailto:jenibradley@fs.fed.us)

**Regaining Control of Lost Radioactive Sources (Environmental Protection Agency)** locates and secures sources of radioactivity that are reported lost, stolen or abandoned. The program gives assistance to source owners who want to “do the right thing,” has created a website and toll free number, and conducts training for states on handling sealed radioactive sources.

### Press Contact:

Deborah Kopsick

Regaining Control of Lost Radioactive

Sources

202-564-9238

[kopsick.deborah@epa.gov](mailto:kopsick.deborah@epa.gov)

**Results Oriented Management and Accountability (Department of Health and Human Services)** uses collaboration and application of management accountability concepts to achieve major program reforms. A voluntary taskforce made up of Federal, state and local officials measures success not by the number or nature of services provided, but by the results they help families and communities achieve.

### Press Contact:

Margaret Washnitzer

Results Oriented Management and

Accountability

202-401-2333

**River of Words (Library of Congress)** sponsors a kindergarten through high school “watershed” poetry and art contests. The contests, the largest of their kind anywhere, are designed to nurture young imaginations. They are supported by a comprehensive teacher-training program. The curriculum for the program integrates outdoor observation and investigation with core subjects like English, math, science, social studies, and the arts, and encourages partnerships with local groups, agencies, institutions, businesses, and individuals.

### Press Contact:

Pamela Michael

79 John F. Kennedy Street • Cambridge, MA 02138 • Phone: 617.495.0557 • Fax: 617.496.4602

E-Mail: [innovations@harvard.edu](mailto:innovations@harvard.edu) • Web: [www.innovations.harvard.edu](http://www.innovations.harvard.edu)



## **Innovations in American Government**

An awards program of the Institute for Government Innovation at the  
John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The awards program is administered in partnership with the  
Council for Excellence in Government.

# NEWS

River of Words

510-548-7636

[pamelam@riverofwords.org](mailto:pamelam@riverofwords.org)