

# HUMPHREY INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover™**

City, County, and School District Officials,

Would you like to be honored for your innovative work?

You could win a Local Government Innovations Award by submitting one of your recent efforts to either (1) collaborate with other governments, nonprofits or the private sector to improve services, or (2) innovatively cut expenses or raise revenues in your 2009 or 2010 budget.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota is pleased to partner with the Association of MN Counties (AMC), the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC), and the MN School Boards Association (MSBA) to conduct the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Local Government Innovation Awards. We need your applications of innovative efforts to make the awards a success.

Last year's event was a great success, as is evident by the caliber of our most recent award recipients (see the enclosed descriptions to learn more about last year's winning submissions). We are pleased to continue these awards, now in its fourth year, as a way to recognize a new group of governmental innovators. I know how much local talent and innovation Minnesota governments have to offer, and so I encourage you to apply for the 2009-2010 Local Government Innovation Awards.

These awards, supported financially by our sponsor, The Public Strategies Group, and our supporting sponsor, Ehlers, will be given to outstanding cities, counties, and schools that have demonstrated results in improving local services. Local governments are eligible this year under the following two categories for 2009-10:

- Collaborations Between Public, Nonprofit, and/or Private Organizations – Many local governments are working with each other to reduce costs and improve services. Some units are consolidating services, while other local governments are working with nonprofits and even businesses to meet service demands. Have you, along with other organizations, recently undertaken a project that has improved service delivery for all involved?
- Innovative Budget Cuts: This year has been a difficult year financially for local governments. Spending reductions have forced difficult budget cuts. Have you cut spending or raised revenue in an innovative way?

At least two cities, two counties, and two school districts will be selected as winners in both of these categories. Collaborations of cities, counties, and school districts are also eligible to win collectively under one category. One governmental unit should submit the

application on behalf of all the units involved. Special efforts will be made to recognize local governments of varying sizes, from both the metro area and Greater Minnesota.

Applicants should submit innovations made in the last two years. **Submissions are due Friday January 15th, 2010.** The awards application is attached. Please note that only what the application calls for is required, and supporting materials are not required.

A panel of local officials and Humphrey faculty will make the final selections by March. There will be an award ceremony for the winners on April 7, 2010, at the Humphrey Institute on the University of Minnesota campus to publicly recognize the winning accomplishments and celebrate the innovative spirit of Minnesota cities, counties, and school boards.

As a local official, you should take pride in what you are accomplishing in these difficult times. It is our intention and hope that these awards will give you more of the recognition you deserve.

Sincerely,



Jay Kiedrowski, EdD  
Senior Fellow

Enclosed: 2009-10 Local Government Innovations Awards Application  
Description of 2008-2009 Award Winners

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover™**



**2009-10 Local Government Innovation Awards**  
**Application**

*For Cities, Counties, and school districts that have achieved improvements and innovations in service delivery.*

**NOMINEE INFORMATION:**

Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Please attach a complete description of the proposal on one additional page discussing how the change is innovative and effective.)

Organization: County    City    School District    Joint

Category:    Public/Nonprofit/Private    Innovative Budget Cuts

**PLEASE RETURN APPLICATIONS TO:**

**Jacqueline Aman at heapx004@umn.edu by Friday January 15th, 2010**

**2009-10 Local Government Innovation Awards Supported by:**

**Sponsor**



**Supporting Sponsor**



<b><u>City Winners (2008-09)</u></b>	
<p><b>City of Roseville Police Department</b> East Metro SWAT (E/E)</p>	<p>Roseville's Tactical Response Unit (TRU) was established in 1999, and in 2002 began to collaborate with St. Anthony's police department to expand capacity. However, it became clear that in order to respond to all of the high risk situations the unit faced, more partners would have to be brought in. In 2007, New Brighton police and North St. Paul police agreed to join the unit. The new four-jurisdiction, 19-person unit, now called the East Metro SWAT, has greatly benefited the communities it serves through savings gained by sharing costs, increased police capabilities, and a sense of camaraderie among the members of the unit.</p>
<p><b>City of Roseville Parks and Recreation</b> Roseville Staking Center's Geothermal Project (E/E)</p>	<p>When the refrigeration system at the Roseville Skating Center needed replacement, the city undertook a \$2.2 million project - their Geothermal Project. The projected replaced the old, environmentally unfriendly Freon system with an energy efficient geothermal system that uses the energy of the earth to heat and cool the building. An estimated \$23,400 is saved per year compared to the old system. Maintenance is also expected to be less of a burden for the city.</p>
<p><b>City of St. Michael /Wright County Sheriff Department</b> Safe Schools - Diversity Initiative - Community U Knighted (COL)</p>	<p>Safe Schools is a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional approach to addressing complex issues such as drug use and safety in schools. The Methamphetamine Education and Drug Awareness (MEADA) program is an example of a particularly successful incarnation of the Safe Schools program. The Community U Knighted is the newest development in the program, and is working to address new racial tensions in the community through collaboration among various jurisdictions in the area.</p>
<p><b>City of St. Louis Park</b> Graffiti Abatement (COL)</p>	<p>By 2007 the city was dealing with a graffiti problem that was bigger than St. Louis Park. The city police department engaged surrounding cities to develop a web-based graffiti database called GraffitiNet. Through this database (and for a small fee) cities can share graffiti information, and the information has been used to aggregate graffiti cases for the Hennepin County Attorney's Office. The public education campaign is also an important part of the program. The benefit of the shared information has been substantial, and has allowed city officials to address the problem of graffiti by working with other municipalities.</p>

MPI – Management Improvement Process  
E/E – Efficiency/Effectiveness  
COL – Collaboration

<b><u>County Winners (2008-09)</u></b>	
<p><b>Carver County</b> The Collection and Composting of Comingled Residential Organics and Yard Waste (COL)</p>	<p>With a goal of increasing collections of food waste and other organics by 20%, the Carver County Environmental Services Department initiated an innovative program that allows for the co-collection of food waste, non-recyclable paper, and yard waste. Working with many partners, the approach has increased efficiency and lowered the cost of collecting and processing organics. The project has also contributed to changing the statutory definition of organics. This change allows for the duplication of the program throughout the state.</p>
<p><b>Clay County</b> Establishment of Red River Regional Dispatch Center (RRRDC) for a Bi-State Metropolitan Area (COL)</p>	<p>Responding to the previously disjointed emergency dispatch system in place in their area, Clay County and the City of Moorhead partnered with Cass County and the cities of Fargo and West Fargo in North Dakota in 2002 to consolidate dispatch services. This collaboration provides coordinated, effective, and seamless E-911 and emergency communications services to the citizens of the Fargo, ND-Morehead, MN Metropolitan Area.</p>
<p><b>Dakota County</b> Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Open Access Process Improvement Project (MPI)</p>	<p>To address the problem of client appointment "no shows" and the backlogging it created for an already strained program, Dakota County WIC implemented a reengineered services model - Open Access Scheduling. The no-show rate was reduced from 30-35% to a much more manageable 6-7% thanks to this program, and access to WIC services was greatly improved. Dakota County has also shared this model with other WIC agencies in the state, which has helped to improve other WIC agencies as well.</p>
<p><b>Ramsey County Community Human Services</b> Runaway Intervention Project (E/E)</p>	<p>Created in 2006, the Runaway Intervention Project Identifies and addresses the needs of young runaway girls who have experienced, or at serious risk of experiencing, sexual exploitation. This multi-agency effort responded to an alarming increase in the number of runaway girls, especially in the Hmong community. In the past runaways were typically returned home by police before the causes and results of their behavior could be properly addressed, leaving them at further risk. Families were also not provided with the proper education and support. Through this intensive intervention program, the project has decreased the girls' risky behaviors and has reconnected them with their families and schools.</p>
<p><b>Olmsted County</b> Rapid Response Family Case Planning Conference (E/E)</p>	<p>The Rapid Response Family Case Planning Conference engages family and community members in a group decision making process to enhance assessment and safety planning at critical agency decision making point when a child is at risk of maltreatment and/or placement outside their family home. Front-loading family and community involvement in child protective services work enhances child safety, well being, and stability of care. Convened within 72 hours of a report of maltreatment, 36 FCPCs were held over the past two years.</p>

<b><u>School District Winners (08-09)</u></b>	
<b>Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Public School District 191</b> Shared Community Cable TV Studio and equipment (E/E)	District 191 and the City of Burnsville have joined together to save significant funds through a relocation of the local cable TV studio. The project has resulted in increased learning opportunities for students and for residents of the community.
<b>Hibbing High School</b> Intro to Engineering (COL)	Through discussions with local business and organizations, it became clear that there would be a need for employees with technical engineering degrees now and in the future. This realization led to the creation of an engineering program at Hibbing High School in collaboration with Hibbing Community College. A computing lab was needed for the class, and \$65,000 of the \$92,000 was provided by outside organizations. Benefits of the program are beginning to be realized now, and will continue to be realized in the future.
<b>District 287</b> Get on the C-Train (COL)	Intermediate District 287, Hennepin County, and the Best Buy Corporation have formed a partnership to address the needs of students who are in danger of not graduating from high school. District 287 serves students from 13 member districts in our Area Learning Center with programs designed specifically for this population. As a result of the partnership, new opportunities for career development are possible for these at risk students. Best Buy has provided a grant to District 287, and Hennepin County is providing resources for a staff person, as well as funding for other aspects of the program.
<b>Lake Superior School District 381</b> Demolition of Old two Harbors High School (LSSD 381) (COL)	Lake Superior School District 381 worked together with Lake County and the City of Twin Harbors to demolish the old Two Harbors High School. Collaborative planning allowed them to work together, saving nearly \$500,000 in costs. Materials from the demolition were recycled and reused, creating a valuable resource of roadbed material as a byproduct of the project. Valuable pieces of art and other items of interest were also removed from the building so as not to go to waste. The project was completed in a safe and timely manner.

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