2020 AWARDS COMPETITION

INNOVATION + COLLABORATION + CELEBRATION

J. MITCHELL GRAHAM + BARRETT LAWRIMORE +
NEW COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RESILIENCY SHOWCASE

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
SCAC’s annual awards program recognizes innovative projects completed by South Carolina counties during the past fiscal year. The program accepts applications that address all areas of county government, from simple unique ideas that extend limited resources to major collaborative efforts that tackle complex issues.

A new award category has been added this year to SCAC’s awards program—The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase.

**Innovation**

Winners represent the best qualities of local governance: attention to details; service to citizens; efficient use of tax dollars; and improvement in the quality of life. They demonstrate how creative problem-solving and collaboration can achieve impressive results, and they offer new ideas for other counties to consider.

The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase will honor the ways our counties have responded to the unprecedented health pandemic. From quickly transitioning to telework for county employees, to securing extra protective supplies for first responders, to launching virtual council meetings, counties have worked diligently to protect residents and employees while continuing to deliver critical services. Many counties have also established COVID-19 hotlines, produced dynamic PSA videos and live chats, and found ways to partner with and promote local businesses during this time. Adjudication for this category will be different from the other two awards; all entries submitted for this year’s showcase will receive special recognition.

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award recognizes counties that address community challenges, implement operational improvements, or enhance their citizens’ quality of life in a unique way. First presented in 1973, this award honors the memory of J. Mitchell Graham, who served as SCAC’s president from 1969-70.

The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award highlights the critical need for regional partnerships, strategies, and solutions. The competition for this award is open to two or more political subdivisions (counties or county partnerships formed with cities, towns, districts, or councils of government) that worked together to complete an innovative project. The award is named in memory of Barrett S. Lawrimore, who served as SCAC’s president in 2004.

**Applications**

Counties are invited to submit applications describing the purpose and significance of their innovative project. Each county may submit one entry for The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase, one entry for the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, and multiple entries for the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award.

If a county worked with multiple agencies or local governments, its project should be submitted as an entry for the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Award. When appropriate, judges reserve the right to change the award category of any application.

All applications must be submitted online or delivered to SCAC by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 26.
**Celebration**

All entrants for The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase will be honored and recognized.

In selecting a winner for the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, counties will compete in three population categories:

- Over 150,000
- 50,000-150,000
- Under 50,000

An Honorable Mention entry may be chosen from each category to receive a plaque, and the large J. Mitchell Graham Cup will be presented to the state winner.

The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Award winner(s) will receive a large plaque to honor this achievement.

Entrants also gain opportunities for publicity through SCCounties.org, County Focus magazine, press releases sent to local news media; and social media.

**Questions?**

Contact Susan Turkopuls via sturkopuls@scac.sc or by calling 1-800-922-6081.

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**Collaboration**

Applicants who meet the application deadline and all requirements will be scheduled to present their projects at SCAC’s 2020 Awards Competition. The competition will take place prior to the Annual Conference. This event provides a unique opportunity for all county officials to learn about innovative practices, technology, and trends; to strengthen their professional network; and to share their ideas and expertise. More details to follow.

A panel of three judges will be appointed by SCAC to select the winning entries. The judges will review all applications and presentations before independently scoring each entry. The Association's Board of Directors and staff do not participate in the selection process.

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**Get the Toolkit & Apply Online**

SCCounties.org/awards

Visit SCAC’s website to access the Awards Toolkit and apply online.

The toolkit includes:

- All rules and requirements;
- Instructions for preparing the project description and support materials;
- Answers to frequently asked questions;
- Video of previous presentations;
- Examples of previous award-winning projects;
- Lists of previous award recipients;
- A fillable PDF application; and
- A sample judges’ scale.
J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award Winners

2019  Dorchester County  2003  Orangeburg County  1987  Beaufort County
2018  Charleston County  2002  Anderson County  1986  Aiken County
2017  Charleston County  2001  Anderson County  1985  Greenwood County
2016  Colleton County  2000  Horry County  1984  Union County
2015  Barnwell County  1999  York County  1983  Greenville County
2014  Abbeville County  1998  Aiken County  1982  Chester County
2013  Newberry County  1997  Georgetown County  1981  Chesterfield County
2012  Colleton County  1996  Berkeley County  1980  York County
2011  Horry County  1995  Florence County  1979  Beaufort County
2010  Orangeburg County  1994  Richland County  1978  Oconee County
2009  Georgetown County  1993  Charleston County  1977  Richland County
2008  Lexington County  1992  York County  1976  Beaufort County
2007  Greenwood County  1991  Greenwood County  1975  Edgefield County
2006  Newberry County  1990  Beaufort County  1974  Lexington County
2005  Georgetown County  1989  Charleston County  1973  Charleston County
2004  Lexington County  1988  Spartanburg County

Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award Winners

2019  Charleston County: Launch with NASA
2018  Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties: Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center
2017  Greenville County: I-map — Finding Essential Services
2016  Spartanburg County: Operation Educate
2015  Spartanburg County: Senior Wellness Partnership
2014  Abbeville, Anderson, Barnwell, and Jasper Counties
2012  Lexington and Richland Counties
2011  Beaufort and Jasper Counties
2010  Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force
2009  Greenwood County and GLEAMNS HR Commission
2008  Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force
2007  Beaufort, Jasper, and Hampton Counties
2006  Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force
2005  Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties
2004  Florence, Georgetown, and Horry Counties
2003  Sumter and Lee Counties
2002  Anderson County Partnership
1999  Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority