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

Counts 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.

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, June 26
Entries must be submitted online or delivered to SCAC by 5 p.m.

July (specific date to be determined)
SCAC’s 2020 Awards Competition
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.

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.

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 and Greenwood County
2006 Newberry County  1990 Beaufort County  1975 Edgefield County
2005 Georgetown County  1989 Charleston County  1974 Lexington County
2004 Lexington County  1988 Spartanburg County  1973 Charleston 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

South Carolina Association of Counties
1919 Thurmond Mall • PO Box 8207 • Columbia, SC 29202-8207
(803) 252-7255 • (800) 922-6081 • Fax: (803) 252-0379
scac@scac.sc • SCCounties.org