

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY

Applications must be submitted by January 30, 2009 at the close of business, 5:00 p.m.

MORE INFORMATION

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You will be notified of the outcome of the award process in late February prior to the CCAP Spring Conference.



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Committee on County Criminal Justice System Best Practices for the 21st Century

New Award

Honoring Excellence
In County Government
Jail Programming



Jail Overcrowding Best Practices Award Program For Counties

BACKGROUND

The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania undertook the Pennsylvania Prison Overcrowding Project in 2001 in response to concerns raised before the Courts and Corrections Committee by CCAP members about jail crowding and construction costs. In August of that year, the CCAP Executive Board decided to reconvene the Prison Overcrowding Task Force and charged it in a general way to devise a strategy to assist in the alleviation of crowding problems and the costs associated with jail construction.

To give the project credibility and legitimacy, CCAP contracted with Dr. Alan Harland, professor in the Criminal Justice department of Temple University, to design and conduct a statewide survey of all county-operated prison facilities to document the extent and magnitude of the problem. The survey instrument was mailed out and the results compiled in 2003. There were several important reasons for undertaking the survey:

- To inform the design of a second-phase study to explore reasons and remedies for overcrowding
- To facilitate decision-making on which counties to target for special attention in terms of the extent or urgency of their problems
- To identify counties with special types of experience dealing with overcrowding and construction decisions and those that might be able to provide data and insight from which other counties might benefit

The CCAP Executive Board in developing policy positions and legislative priorities used the results of both the survey and the final report on the prison overcrowding project to guide deliberations. The Prison Overcrowding Project got underway in 2004. From March to August, the Task Force worked with Dr. Harland to finalize the statewide survey document and to develop a work plan for implementing the second phase of the study. On August 6, 2004, CCAP received official notice from the National Institute of Justice that it had been awarded a \$347,725 grant to defray the cost of the work on the overcrowding project. U.S. Senator Arlen Specter made the grant available by virtue of a Congressionally Directed Award placed in the 2003 federal budget.

In September 2004, a contract was executed with Temple University and Dr. Harland to perform the work to complete the overcrowding project. The fieldwork for the project began in September 2004, with Jim Cadue, project director, and Dr. Harland conducting the first of fourteen-targeted county site visits. Those results were included in the report. Those counties who were part of the site visits received a county specific report containing recommendations.

The CCAP Board received a final report in August 2006. The Board formally adopted the report on behalf of the Association. The Board expressed concern that the findings in the report would not be executed by counties unless an implementation strategy was developed. In early 2007, the first meeting of the Prison Overcrowding Task Force Implementation Work Group was convened. The work group later renamed itself the Committee on County Criminal Justice System Best Practices for the 21st Century. Throughout the next year, the committee met quarterly to establish a series of tasks and regular reports. In the spring of 2008, the committee determined that providing an award would be an effective way to promote the report, and see to it that counties were able to benefit from it. The award would be essential to honor and recognize those counties and county jails who had:

- Embraced the concepts and best practices contained in the report recommendations
- Put into practice successful evidence-based programs to address overcrowding instead of building more jail cells

View the reports at www.pacounties.org, "What's News, Jail Overcrowding Reports."

Award Announcement will take place during the
CCAP Spring Conference Hilton Harrisburg
March 29 - March 31, 2009

AWARD PROGRAM GOAL

To recognize counties that have implemented best practices to reduce jail populations. These may be consistent with the CCAP Prison Overcrowding Report recommendations or other county-based best practices effective in reducing populations in existence in Pennsylvania. Efforts that may be considered include those that:

- Stabilize or reduce jail populations
- Adopt assessment methodologies which identify areas for effective change
- Employ re-entry projects
- Establish community corrections programs
- Use technology to enhance population control
- Improve data quality
- Employ innovations for housing and treating mentally ill inmates
- Develop community service efforts
- Create diversion programs for specific populations
- Encourage collaboration between county departments not traditionally involved in corrections
- Form innovative public/private partnerships

One county will receive an award recognizing its CJAB. The awardee will be selected from submissions provided to the 21st Century Committee by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Regional CJAB representatives. There is no need for a county to apply for this award. CJABs from each region of the state will be considered. The awardee will receive recognition for their collaborative efforts at applying best practices to the operation of their CJAB leading to successful outcomes.

CCAP will announce the awards to the media. Winners receive a plaque.

ELIGIBILITY

A county is eligible to apply if:

- The county plays a significant leadership role in the development and implementation of the activities
- The chair of the Board of County Commissioners or the chief executive officer, and the chair of the Prison Board approve the submission

- The project exhibits substantive or quantifiable results or performance measures
- It commits to participating in telephone interviews or in site visits with the Awards Committee
- It agrees items submitted for the program narrative will be posted on the CCAP Web site, and made available to requesting counties wishing to establish similar best practices. The signatures on the submission indicate agreement with the public posting, and the awardee may be asked to share additional information with other counties
- The project must have been in place and operating during calendar year 2008

NUMBER OF AWARDS

No more than two, one for a small county jail, and one for a large county jail. The Awards Committee will consider geographically and demographically diverse counties, including urban, rural, large and small counties. A small county is a county of the fourth through eighth class, and a large county is a county of the first, second, second A or third class.

PREPARING AND SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

Use the official award form in this brochure or available online at www.pacounties.org, *What's News*, click on "Jail Overcrowding." You may submit your entry:

Electronically: The Committee requests you have all items in one PDF document. Please make sure you have scanned and attached your documentation and that you have also mailed a copy of the award form with the appropriate signatures in addition to the one you attach to your electronic submission. E-mail by the close of business January 30, 2009 to zausherman@pacounties.org. In subject line of e-mail state "Attn: 21st Century Committee."

Fax: Fax your completed entry with the entry form to CCAP, attn. Zachary Ausherman, (717) 232-2162. In subject line specify: "Attn: 21st Century Committee."

Mail Service: Mail completed entry and form that is postmarked by January 30, 2009 to: Zachary Ausherman, CCAP, Attn: 21st Century Committee, 17 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.



Jail Overcrowding Best Practices Award Official Entry Form

This form must be attached to all entries. Entrants must complete all sections for the entry to be considered complete. A copy of this official entry is available electronically at www.pacounties.org.

County Name _____ County Class _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Contact Name _____ Title _____
Department _____ Phone (_____) _____
Fax (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Project Information

Title _____ Start Date _____

Each application must be submitted with two signatures. Place appropriate signatures on two of the lines below:

Chair Of The Board Of County Commissioners

County Chief Executive Officer

Chair Of The County Prison Board

Program Narrative

A separate program narrative document must be attached to this form that answers the following questions in the order presented. This must be typed in a Word-document, Times New Roman, 10-point type.

- A description of the identified need and the background including what programs were in place before the current project, if any, and how it led to this effort.
- A description of the project, including any evidenced-based approaches to jail diversion, community involvement strategies, formation of stakeholder groups, county-wide planning strategies, etc.
- A description of expectations and measurable goals, including supporting data.
- A brief description of how the project was evaluated and any lessons learned.
- A brief description of the community, including a description of key stakeholders, organizations, and county departments that were involved in the project.
- A description of how the activities started in this project were altered or will be continued based on experience, including plans for leveraging additional resources.
- A description of any costs associated with the project and how it was funded; cost savings, if any and any change in community acceptance, reductions in insurance costs, or inspection improvements that resulted from the program.

Please attach supporting documents, forms or other information that support the award entry. Entries must be received by close of business on January 30, 2009. More information: Zachary Ausherman, zausherman@pacounties.org.