



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 1, 2017

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the typed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **National Association of Counties 2017 Achievement Awards**

The National Association of Counties (NACO) has informed the County that four innovative Pima County programs have received a NACO Achievement Award for 2017. Started in 1970, NACO's annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize inventive and enterprising county government programs. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

The County's entries are finalists for the Best in Category Awards, which will be announced at the Association's annual conference in July. The Association provides awards in 18 categories ranging from criminal justice to county administration, and information technology to economic development.

These awards highlight the forward-thinking leadership of the Board of Supervisors and the innovative work of County Administration and staff to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of County government in order to save taxpayers money and improve the lives and welfare of the 1 million residents of Pima County.

I congratulate all of the County employees who helped develop and implement these now award-winning programs. The winning entries are:

Community and Economic Development Category

Entry Title: Pima County Economic Development Plan

Entry excerpt: There is perhaps no greater public policy initiative for Pima County than improving our local and regional economy. The primary role of local government is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. Growing communities are able to provide jobs to successive generations and have greater resources for providing the key services of government, namely public safety, public infrastructure (roads, water, sewer) and education. Growing communities also are able to spread out the cost of government services more broadly, thereby potentially reducing the tax burden on individuals, businesses and properties.

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The Great Recession exposed extraordinary weakness in our local economy. By crafting and implementing the Economic Development Plan, the County, through its investments and policy actions, is growing the local economy, increasing jobs and income, and increasing overall community wealth.

Personnel Management, Employment and Training Category

Entry Title: Self Insurance Healthcare Benefit

Entry excerpt: Pima County's successful adoption of a medical and pharmacy self-insurance High Deductible Health Plan with Health Savings Account has greatly improved the administration of a critical employee benefit. In reforming the County's outdated and expensive PPO for employee health coverage, Pima County has saved taxpayers and employees more than \$45 million while providing a modern health insurance solution. In addition to eliminating year-over-year premium increases, which were approaching 20 percent by 2013, the reforms have resulted in the creation of two functioning and healthy trusts. The first, the employee HSA trust, in which 80 percent of the County workforce participates and which has grown to more than \$17 million. The next, the County's Health Benefits Insurance Trust Fund, has grown to \$21 million. This program has saved employees money while helping make them healthier, has brought stability to the county budget via reasonable, manageable and predicible annual costs, and saved taxpayers tens of millions of dollars in avoided costs.

County Administration and Management Category

Entry Title: Animal Care Center Development Program

Entry excerpt: Pima Animal Care's Development Program has helped transform its animal shelter, once known as a dog pound with poor outcomes for animals, into a humane care facility dedicated to saving the lives of pets. This program has not only changed the operational philosophy of the facility, but also its reputation in the community. Pima Animal Care Center has become the community's only open-admission shelter and the largest adoption agency. Implementation of this program has given the County additional resources to create new programs and form new partnerships to ensure that its investment continues to succeed in the future. Between the establishment of its nonprofit partner – the Friends of PACC – and its collaboration with other local and national animal advocacy groups, and the cooperation from its jurisdictional partners, Pima Animal Care Center has effectively reduced the barriers to more humane treatment of animals community-wide. The development program has also created a new level of trust between the government and its constituents, which has led to construction of a new animal shelter and more community involvement in the shelter's daily operation. Most importantly, however, the initiatives cultivated by this program through monetary and moral support have allowed thousands of pets in Pima County

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to receive the necessary level of treatment, medical care and compassion to go on and thrive in the community.

Planning Category

Entry Title: Auto Routing and Remote Inspection Project

Entry excerpt: Pima County's Auto-routing Remote Inspection project is an ideal county project – a simple, homegrown, custom-fit solution using available resources to transform a vital County function into a revenue-generator while simultaneously reducing program costs and environmental effects with no outside impetus, input or funding of any kind. Motivated by a desire to do better and be more efficient as a department, Pima County Development Services recognized in 2013 an opportunity to recast its inspection delivery process. New inspection tools were developed entirely in-house, driven by a sober analysis of departmental staffing, strengths and client demands. The system is easily replicable, and its component parts can be implemented entirely independent of each other at minimal costs. This project deserves 2017 NACO Achievement Award because it is a common-sense idea that likely will set a new standard for municipal and private development inspection services over the next few years.

CHH/mjk