



STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

*"Serving Equal Opportunity Employers"*

**OPM 04-14**

**DATE:** March 11, 2004

**TO:** All Appointing Authorities

**FROM:** Oscar B. Jackson, Jr., Administrator and  
Cabinet Secretary of Human Resources and Administration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar B. Jackson, Jr.", positioned to the right of the "FROM:" field.

**RE: The Council of State Governments (CSG)  
2004 Innovations Awards**

The Council of State Governments (CSG) last October presented national Innovations Awards to eight of the most creative solutions in state government. As CSG begins the selection process for the 18th consecutive year of the Innovations Awards Program, they have asked for our help in identifying the most innovative state programs and practices.

CSG's Innovations Awards Program was established in 1986 to identify, recognize, and transfer the best practices in state government. It is the only national awards program exclusively for state government in which state government officials select the winners. Given the financial conditions that currently challenge our state government community, identifying and sharing truly innovative, cost-effective programs and practices are more critical than ever.

Oklahoma state government has been invited to submit programs and practices in your agencies that may be contenders for the 2004 Innovations Awards. Innovations categories/subcategories and selection criteria are:

- **Infrastructure & Economic Development** (*Business, Economic Development and Transportation*)
- **Government Operations** (*Elections, Public Information and Revenue*)
- **Health & Human Services** (*Aging, Children & Families, Health, Housing and Human Services*)
- **Human Resources/Education** (*Education, Labor, Management, Personnel and Workforce Development*)
- **Natural Resources** (*Agriculture, Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Parks & Recreation*)
- **Public Safety/Corrections** (*Corrections, Courts, Criminal Justice, Drugs, Emergency Management and Public Safety*)

**Awards Selection Criteria**

*Newness* - Is the program between 9 months and 5 years old by May 1?

*Creativity* - Does the program represent a new and creative approach to problems or issues?

*"We serve the people of Oklahoma by delivering reliable and innovative human resource services to our partner agencies to achieve their missions."*

*Effectiveness* - Has the program or practice achieved its goals and purposes?

*Transferability* - Could the program or practice be easily transferred to other states?

*Significance* - Does the program or practice address significant regional issues or problems that are regional in scope?

The CSG web site provides detailed information about the program and an application packet at <http://www.csg.org/CSG/Programs/innovations/default.htm>. Please complete and return an Innovations Awards application form for each program or practice so that it is received by **April 20, 2004**. The individual identified as the contact person on each application will be sent all correspondence regarding the status of the Innovations Awards process. All contributors will be acknowledged at the Innovations Awards Ceremony in the state capitol of each winner, as well as recognized in *State Government News* and on the CSG Website.

Questions or requests for additional information may be addressed to Nancy J. Vickers, CSG National Program Associate, at (859) 244-8105 or [nvickers@csg.org](mailto:nvickers@csg.org).