

2007 Innovations Awards Program APPLICATION

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ID # (assigned by CSG): 07-S-57ALINFOTECHPLANNING

Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:

State: Alabama

Assign Program Category (applicant): Administration (Use list at end of application)

1. Program Name: Information Technology Strategic Planning
2. Administering Agency: State of Alabama, Dept. of Finance, Information Services Division
3. Contact Person (Name and Title): Jim Burns, CIO
4. Address: 64 N. Union Street, Suite 200 Montgomery, AL 36130
5. Telephone Number: 334-242-3800
6. FAX Number: 334-242-7002
7. E-mail Address: jim.burns@isd.alabama.gov
8. Web site Address: www.alabamainteractive.org/it_strategic (system is only active during certain periods of the year. Please contact Sloane Wright with Alabama Interactive for more information 334-261-1989)
9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.

The Information Technology Strategic Planning program provides agencies with a secure, web-based, user friendly tool for inputting agency level data used to populate the IT planning database. The program allows agencies to input information on critical issues, goals, objectives, technology and budgets directly into the planning database bringing critical issues that may present barriers to agencies in achieving their goals and objectives upfront.

10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on April 2, 2007, to be considered.

July 2006

11. Why was the program created? What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address?

The IT Strategic Planning program was created to replace an aged system. The previous Excel-based system required planning staff to extract data and load into a database for analysis and development. The process required time-consuming, manual intervention for the exportation and importation of data and did not provide a secure submission, as formulas could be changed.

12. Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order.

The Information Technology Strategic Planning program begins with the individual visiting www.alabamainteractive.org/it_strategic to register. The user is required to input personal information, login information and agency information. The user is then directed to the IT critical issues worksheet. The user will then input internal critical issues as well as external critical issues. Once completed the user is directed to the IT goals, objectives and strategies worksheet. The user will then input the IT strategic goal. Once the goal is input, the user must identify the agency's primary goal, objective or strategy this IT strategic goal supports. Once all goals are added the user has the option of setting the goals in the order of priority. The next step is to complete the IT budget worksheet. After all fields are entered, the user is directed to the technology assessment worksheet. Here the user will answer yes or no to several technology related questions. After the technology assessment worksheet is completed, the program is completed and the user is provided with a summary of all activity.

Users are presented with a “red light—green light” dashboard that intuitively displays sections completed, sections requiring completion and areas requiring additional attention. Dynamic data forms within the application have the ability to expand or contract to fit the needs of the user, as well as perform automatic calculations on data fields with numeric values. Each input field is validated through the use of regular expressions to ensure data integrity and totality.

13. Why is the program a new and creative approach or method?

The new web-based tool allows agencies to input information on critical issues, goals, objectives, technology and budgets directly into the planning database. As a result, IT planning and strategic efforts have become less cumbersome for all users. In addition, the system provides stronger data integrity, reduces labor intensive processes through efficiencies, and provides state leaders with immediate access to logged information. In addition, critical issues that may prevent barriers to agencies in achieving their goals and objectives are identified upfront. This capability should lead to corrective action by our organization and State Personnel in areas of workforce management, training and procedures.

14. What were the program's start-up costs? (Provide details about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.)

A unique self-funded partnership between the State of Alabama and Alabama Interactive allows for the development of applications at no cost to agencies throughout the state. Although there are costs associated with the development of the program, those costs were not paid by the Department of Finance. The entire project was a result of a collaborative, public-private effort between our planning staff and users agency IT staff, a local university and a business partner and would have equated to approximately \$12,000 in costs associated with its development.

15. What are the program's annual operational costs?

There is no set amount for annual operational costs. All maintenance and updates are performed at no cost to the Department of Finance through a partnership with Alabama Interactive.

16. How is the program funded?

The program is an In-kind service to the state; Alabama Interactive provides this service to the state at no cost.

17. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number.

Although the implementation of the program did not require passage of legislation, executive order or regulation, Governor Bob Riley announced his program "SMART Governing" to improve Alabama government by requiring organizational planning, linking plans to budget requests and appropriations and creating meaningful performance measurements.

18. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program?

The IT Strategic planning solution was built using, Java Struts Framework utilizing the most up-to-date version of the Java Development Kit (JDK). The web-based application provides security features, such as login authentication using individually-assigned usernames and passwords.

19. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator's name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address.

Yes, this program originated in the state of Alabama
Jim Burns, CIO
64 N. Union Street, Suite 200
Montgomery, AL 36130
334-242-3800
Jim.burns@isd.alabama.gov

20. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ?

No

21. Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken?

Yes, this program has been fully implemented

22. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program's effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.

The IT Strategic Planning program has enabled planning staff to more accurately and expeditiously analyze the data provided by the user agencies and to publish the IT Strategic Plan sooner.

The web-based approach to this solution, as well as the technologies deployed, assure that this system can be easily replicated at any level of government. Already producing quantifiable results for ISD, this innovative technology will prove useful for other agencies within the State and will provide added value to Alabama's SMART Governing process for years to come.

23. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception?

The program completed its first year successfully and since that time no changes have been made. However updates could be made in the upcoming months in preparation for the new fiscal year.

24. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?

No limitations or obstacles faced Alabama in the development of this program. The web-based approach to this solution, as well as the technologies deployed, assure that this system can be easily replicated at any level of government. Already producing quantifiable results for ISD, this innovative technology could prove useful for other states.

2007 Innovations Awards Program Program Categories and Subcategories

Use these as guidelines to determine the appropriate Program Category for your state's submission and list that program category on page one of this application. Choose only one.

Infrastructure and Economic Development

- Business/Commerce
- Economic Development
- Transportation

Government Operations

- Administration
- Elections
- Public Information
- Revenue

Health & Human Services

- Aging
- Children & Families
- Health Services
- Housing
- Human Services

Human Resources/Education

- Education
- Labor
- Management
- Personnel
- Training and Development
- Workforce Development

Natural Resources

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Environment
- Environmental Protection
- Natural Resources
- Parks & Recreation
- Water Resources

Public Safety/Corrections

- Corrections
- Courts
- Criminal Justice
- Drugs
- Emergency Management
- Public Safety

Save in .doc or rtf. Return completed application electronically to innovations@csg.org or mail to:

CSG Innovations Awards 2007
The Council of State Governments
2760 Research Park Drive, P.O. Box 11910
Lexington, KY 40578-1910

Contact:

Nancy J. Vickers, National Program Associate
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The Council of State Governments
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This application is also available at www.csg.org, in the Programs section.

Deadline: April 2, 2007