



The Council of State Governments
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2011 Innovations Awards Application

DEADLINE: MARCH 28, 2011

ID # (assigned by CSG): 2011- _____

Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:

State: New Jersey

Assign Program Category (applicant): Government Operations and Technology (Use list at end of application)

1. Program Name
YourMoney.NJ.Gov – NJ’s Transparency Center
2. Administering Agency
Department of Treasury
3. Contact Person (Name and Title)
Jennifer D’Autrechy, Analyst
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8. Web site Address
www.yourmoney.nj.gov
9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.
YourMoney.NJ.Gov is New Jersey’s first comprehensive, government transparency center. It is designed to provide a clear picture of the state’s revenues and spending for all citizens. This site also allows anyone to view and search authorities’ financial data. It is a single-source site with analytical tools to zoom-in, click through or sort to one’s preference.

10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on March 28, 2011 to be considered.

YourMoney.NJ.Gov was launched on July 1, 2010.

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

Efforts at transparency by previous administrations reflected indifference toward the public's right to know. The last administration rushed to create a site in the last few weeks of its tenure in office, with predictably unsatisfactory results. The state's Open Public Records Act (OPRA) was the only recourse available to members of the public who wanted to find comprehensive records on the state's finances, and these records often were not searchable. The OPRA process also is burdensome and expensive compared to Web-based search engines and data storage. The new site created by New Jersey's governor consolidates values of public information on one site that is easy to navigate. Never before have citizens had so much data, and so many tools to analyze it.

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

- **July 2010 – Launched**
 - **State Revenue application (monthly update)**
 - **State Expenditures application (quarterly update)**
 - **State Payroll application (quarterly update)**
 - **Governor's Performance Center**
 - **Collection of Annual Reports**
- **October 2010**
 - **Purchasing application (quarterly update)**
- **November 2010**
 - **Authorities Revenue application (monthly update)**
 - **Expenditures application (quarterly update)**
 - **Payroll application (quarterly update)**
- **December 2010 – February 2011**
 - **Annual Reports (CAFR, Debt, Budget Summary, Proposed Budget)**
- **March 2011**
 - **Pension Payroll application (quarterly update)**
 - **Property Tax application (annual update)**

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

Before July 2010, New Jersey failed to provide the data or tools needed to analyze the operation of the state governor or authorities that control tens of billions of dollars in spending. There was no way to connect how revenues collected to how they were spent or to the quality and types of services that were being provided.

From the start, the team of technological, financial and policy leaders from the Department of Treasury were determined to help viewers follow how taxpayer money was being spent. Tools such as search, sort, drill-through and download were incorporated to enable citizens to explore and analyze the state and authority financial data in ways that provided unmatched insight into the operation of government.

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.)

All work was done in-house and no purchases were made. Existing staff was consulted to ensure accuracy and quality assurance of all the databases.

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

YourMoney.NJ.Gov will receive ongoing support for updates and maintenance.

16. How is the program funded?
New Jersey leverages existing resources.
17. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number.
Governor Chris Christie signed Executive Order 8 – Transparency and Performance Budgeting on January 20, 2010.
18. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program?
YourMoney.NJ.Gov leveraged existing technologies in which the State of New Jersey had previously invested. These include:
- **The New Jersey Enterprise Data Warehouse (NJEDW), which runs on Oracle database software hosted on IBM servers. This environment was already in place and continues to be enhanced and expanded. The data warehouse is used to stage the data published on YourMoney.**
 - **Application Express (ApEx) is a rapid development product from Oracle used to produce the online query and reporting capabilities. The State already owned this product, and it is co-hosted on the same servers as the Oracle database.**
 - **BusinessObjects is a reporting tool that is used to produce some of the collateral charts and reports. The State already owned this product.**
 - **The web site is hosted on the State’s existing NJ.Gov infrastructure running on Oracle Sun Solaris servers. This environment was already in place. Web developers used existing tools for development of the web site.**
 - **The Geospatial Information Systems are hosted on a combination of Dell and IBM servers hosting ESRI GIS and Oracle database software. This environment was already in place and continues to be enhanced and expanded.**
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.
Efforts at Transparency did not originate in New Jersey. To the contrary, past efforts did not receive real support from top leadership. The real innovator, in this case, was the governor, who signed an executive order within hours of taking office that required the Transparency site to be created. While it may not be innovative to meet campaign promises, it was refreshing.
20. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ?
Most states have various examples of transparency websites and all put their own touch on which data is included, how data is packaged and the level of access that is granted to citizens. Our focus was to provide essential financial data that was easy to use, and to dramatically improve the state’s transparency and commitment to open government.
21. Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken?
YourMoney.NJ.Gov will continue to expand and update the site with new and important information throughout the governor’s time in office.
22. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program’s effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.
- **Provides transparency**
 - **Easy to navigate**
 - **Displays pertinent financial data**
 - **Grants immediate access to files**
 - **Alleviates the need to file or fulfill manual OPRA requests on:**
 - **State’s and Authorities Financial data**

- **Payroll**
- **Pension Payroll**
- **Property Tax assessments**
- **Purchasing data**

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

YourMoney.NJ.Gov has grown with each additional database supplied to the public.

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

New Jersey's financial reported has been disjointed, and authorities have not been required to post their financial information in one place. (In New Jersey, authorities have frequently been referred to as the state's "shadow government.") It was clear that change was needed.

Also, as outlined in the timeline from July to March, YourMoney.NJ.Gov has released all new site applications as soon as they became available while leaving room room for updates and new features. We recognized that perfection should not get in the way of progress.

CSG reserves the right to use or publish in other CSG products the information provided in this application. If your agency objects to this policy, please advise us in a separate attachment.



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2011 Innovations Awards Application 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 and Technology

- Administration
- Elections
- Information Systems
- Public Information
- Revenue
- Telecommunications

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 2011
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This application is also available at www.csg.org.