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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: [Puerto Rico](#)

Assign Program Category (applicant): [Health & Human Services](#) (Use list at end of application)

**1. Program Name**

*Cancha Abierta / Open Court*

**2. Administering Agency**

*Department of Sports and Recreation of Puerto Rico (DSR)*

**3. Contact Person (Name and Title)**

*Mr. Jorge Torres, Program Coordinator*

**4. Address**

*Parque de Santurce  
Calle Los Angeles  
San Juan PR, 00902-3207*

**5. Telephone Number**

*1-(787) 721-2800 ext. 1130*

**6. FAX Number**

*1-(787) 721-8318*

**7. E-mail Address**

*[jtorres@drd.gobierno.pr](mailto:jtorres@drd.gobierno.pr)*

**8. Web site Address**

*[www.drd.gobierno.pr](http://www.drd.gobierno.pr)*

**9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.**

*This program was developed with the sponsorship of de Department of Housing to promote recreation and sports, in the public housing system, as instruments to promote community self-esteem, develop values and to reduce delinquency, drug use and rivalry in young people from 6 to 16 years old. This program is recuing the basketball courts and open spaces located at the public housing, from being the drug selling points of these communities into a positive environment, full of young people who want to have a better life through sport.*

**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.**

*Program implemented on March 2009. It has been in place for 2 years.*

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

*In Puerto Rico, there is an existing necessity to promote sports activities to keep young people out of the streets especially in environments were too much spare time; criminality, delinquent conduct and drugs are a constant threat. This program is also rescuing the courts from being that drug selling points by converting these in a positive and healthy environment for young people to learn, play and be out of trouble.*

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

*2009 – A total amount of 60,000 young people were impacted with this program, which includes 180 public housing developments.*

*2010 – An additional 20,000 people participated. From the total of 329 public housing development, this program has impacted 300. (Remaining 29 are in construction phase)*

*2011 – Expecting an additional participation of 20,000 people.*

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

*This program offers educational and sports activities that are circumscribed principally by offering workshops to reinforce self-esteem, promote community life free of violence and drugs. The creation of a league consisting of young residents of all the public housing in Puerto Rico and having champions in each category is providing a great opportunity to tear down social barriers and overcoming hostility between residents through a healthy competition. The recreational and sports activities included are: volleyball, basketball, table tennis, combat sports, theatre, modern dance, football, chess and workshops in photojournalism.*

**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.)**

*Initial costs in 2009 were \$1,800,000.00. By 2010 the costs increased to \$6,500,000.00. A special team of coaches, teachers, psychologists, social workers, recreational leaders and nutritionists were recruited to work on this program to ensure a complete and effective implementation. In 2009, 100 of these professionals were recruited, 500 by 2010 and expecting to recruit 50 more for 2011. Financial expenditures of \$113,000 in transportation, \$209,000 in sports equipment, \$5,364,300 in personnel, \$743,600 for materials and \$135,000 in other activities such as improvements in the public housing communal facilities, TV transmissions and publications.*

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

*Annual operational costs of \$6,500,000.00*

**16. How is the program funded?**

*From federal funds assigned to the Housing Department*

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

*No*

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

*Not applicable.*

**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 was created by Henry Newmann, Secretary of the Department of Sports and Recreation of Puerto Rico. PO Box 9023207, San Juan, PR. 00902. 1-(787) 721-2800 ext. 1200*

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

*No, we are not aware of similar programs in other states.*

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

*Yes*

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

*Pros: Keeping drugs out of the recreational areas where young people should be playing  
Preventing young people to engage in criminal activities  
Promoting a healthy lifestyle through sports and other recreational activities.  
Overcoming hostility between residents  
Providing an opportunity to develop a sport career and a new passion in sports*

*Challenge: Budget and social barriers that prevents the integration among the residents of the public housing complexes.*

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

*By 2011 this program will have an impact over 100,000 children from 6-16 years old. Expecting to impact 50,000 additional children in the upcoming years.*

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

*None*

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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](mailto:innovations@csg.org) or mail to:**

CSG Innovations Awards 2011  
The Council of State Governments  
2760 Research Park Drive, P.O. Box 11910  
Lexington, KY 40578-1910

### **Contact:**

Nancy J. Vickers, National Program Administrator  
Phone: 859.244.8105  
Fax: 859.244.8001 – Attn: Innovations Awards Program  
The Council of State Governments  
E-mail: [nvickers@csg.org](mailto:nvickers@csg.org)

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