



Fact Sheet

2010 Better Government Competition Awards

Now in its 19th year, Pioneer Institute's annual Better Government Competition showcases innovative ideas and programs to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government. Implementation of previous winning entries has saved Massachusetts citizens hundreds of millions of dollars.

WINNER

Containing the Cost of Medicaid by Providing Housing for Homeless Individuals

Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) and Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) – Boston, MA – With the chronically homeless often suffering from complex medical and mental disabilities, meeting the twin goals of cost containment and better care is difficult, especially without the stability of a home and a coordinated system of care. MHSA proposes providing community-based Medicaid services to ensure intensive case management, together with supportive housing as a medical and cost saving intervention. By redeploying resources currently provided in an uncoordinated fashion, the results would be cost savings and an improvement in the quality of services.

RUNNERS-UP

Apps for Democracy

iStrategyLabs and Office of the Chief Technology Officer – Washington, D.C. - A contest harnessing young talent in the District of Columbia, Apps for Democracy fostered the development of new web and mobile applications that make practical use of DC's data catalog. Apps for Democracy can easily be emulated and achieve similar results in all localities.

The Commission for a New Georgia

State of Georgia – Georgia's public-private entity empowers short-term task forces, composed of industry experts, pro bono consultants and public sector leaders, to analyze and recommend reforms to government activities. The Commission receives strong Executive and Legislative support in enacting reforms.

Elimination of Redundant Overlapping Bureaucracies

Ed Cutting – Hadley, MA – Massachusetts' 254 housing authorities are often redundant, expensive, and prone to fraud and abuse. This entry proposes consolidating the housing authorities into a dozen or less regional entities. In addition to cost savings and rooting out abuses, this proposal would also centralize voucher-based rental support into a single entity operating under the direct authority of the Commonwealth.

Public-Private Partnership

City of Sandy Springs, GA – Since its incorporation in 2005, the City of Sandy Springs has operated as a public-private partnership, with the majority of staff employed by a private company, CH2MHILL. The result is the lowest per capita ratio (1.51 per 1,000 residents) of municipal employees in the state.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Creation of an All-Payer, All-Provider Claims Database (APPCD)

Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy - In response to the critical need to develop and implement a database which captures patients' care across providers and payers, and is collected and stored by a single entity, the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy proposes to build an all-payer, all-provider claims database under its authority.

Balanced Incentives for Health

Mitchell T. Rabkin, M.D., and John S. Cook, D.Phil. – By placing incentives that encourage physicians to spend time with patients in useful efforts not paid for under fee-for-service, such as taking the time to listen to the patient, planning with the patient for health in the years ahead or, for a patient with chronic illness, focusing on education, monitoring and home care. Wide implementation would influence other payers, government and private, and the health care's financing and delivery of care would improve.

Performance-Based Employment Services

America Works – Data shows that a performance-based contracting approach that offers incentives for employees to retain their jobs for the critical four-to-six month period, which reflects the success of a program and the likelihood that employees will retain their jobs long-term, are proven milestones that accurately predict long-term outcomes, such as remaining in the workforce, enrolling in college or staying out of jail.

MassDOT Developers Initiative

MassDOT – In order to do more with less, MassDOT, building off of the Developer's Page launched in July 2009, is promoting transportation data that can be used by third-party software developers to build websites, mobile applications, and other applications that deliver customer information more efficiently and effectively to users of the Commonwealth's transportation system.