



Dear Wayne County Employees:

I am honored to announce that Wayne County has received eight Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). This program recognizes innovative county government programs across the country. The following programs have received awards:

- **Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program (MFPP)**, Economic Development Growth Engine, won an award in the Community/Economic Development Category. The Wayne County MFPP provides comprehensive education, counseling, referral, intervention and other support services at no cost to Wayne County residents who are in delinquency, foreclosure or who have a mortgage product that the resident thinks may become a problem. At the time of the application, 694 Wayne County residents had accessed the program and initiated a case. Of those, 213 cases have been resolved.
- **Correct Course**, Department of Children and Family Services, received an award in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Category. Wayne County Correct Course Initiative provides alternative, community-based diversion programs to traditional juvenile court adjudication and probation to low-risk youthful offenders who might otherwise be placed under juvenile court supervision. To date, 91% of all youth referred through Correct Course have successfully completed the program requirements, and 97% of those youth have avoided picking up a new formal charge and entering the juvenile justice system one-year post program completion.
- **Land Bank**, Department of Economic and Neighborhood Development, won an award in the Community/Economic Development Category. The Land Bank promotes economic growth and development by returning properties to the tax rolls, encourages the redevelopment of Brownfield property and promotes maintenance or demolition of blighted property. Land Bank results include the creation of renewed housing, commercial, industrial and retail development in targeted areas throughout the County; cleaner and safer neighborhoods; and the retention and creation of sustainable jobs in Wayne County.
- **Permit Assistant Construction Permit Management System**, received an award in the Information Technology Category. The Permit Assistant computer program is a shared information management system that tracks the county's permit application (plan reviews) processes and their associated permits to make sure permits are reviewed and issued on time and our customers are being serviced within 60 days. The use of Permit Assistant brought the review rate from 42% past due to just one past due in five months.

- **Comprehensive Assessment and Master Plan Project**, Department of Environment, received an award in the Environmental Protection and Energy Category. This comprehensive program reviewed and addressed customers' needs and positioned FMD to be the "provider of choice" by making the Department competitive in its industry. As a result of this project, Wayne County has saved \$10.2 million at our Downriver Wastewater Treatment Facility, the second-largest treatment facility in the state of Michigan.
- **Organizational Effectiveness Division**, Department of Personnel/Human Resources, won an award in the Personnel Management, Employee Training and Employee Benefits Category. The Organizational Effectiveness Division was created to assist Wayne County departments in developing strategic methods for making decisions, implementing policies and engaging in process improvement activities. Through evaluation, trend analysis and training, OE was able to recommend specific objectives that will save DPS \$3.8 million in operating expenses for this fiscal year.
- **Systematic Monitoring and Reporting Tracking (SMART)**, Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start, received an award in the Information Technology Category. The SMART data management system was developed in 2006 to provide improved tracking of the actions taken to meet and exceed federal program performance standards. The use of SMART gives Head Start managers an efficient tracking system that assures requirements are met and continuous quality improvement steps are taken to minimize deficiencies as soon as they are detected.
- **It's a No Drainer Program**, Department of Community Outreach, received an award in the Civic Education and Public Information Category. The 'It's a No Drainer' program is a series of one-day sessions that invite the general public to drop off unwanted/expired non-controlled medications, sharps and mercury thermometers to be disposed of in an environmentally safe way. The program attracted 100 people to bring in their unused medications, saved a 55-gallon drum of medicine from being disposed of improperly and provided education about the importance of safe medicine disposal to 2,000 people.

I am pleased that many departments throughout Wayne County have created and implemented such pioneering and inventive programs. Congratulations to these departments and employees for your hard work in allowing Wayne County to provide top notch services for our residents. Who is next?

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Ficano
Wayne County Executive