



The Village of Glenview

NEWS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Lynne Stiefel
Communications Manager
Village of Glenview
(847) 904-4371
lstiefel@glenview.il.us

Daniel Harsha
Associate Director for Communications
Ash Center
(617) 495-4347

MUNICIPAL PARTNERING RECOGNIZED WITH 'BRIGHT IDEAS' AWARD

January 19, 2017 – The Municipal Partnering Initiative (MPI) has been recognized as a Bright Idea by the Innovations in American Government Awards, presented January 18 by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

The Village of Glenview was presented the award on behalf of municipalities in Cook and Lake Counties that have participated since the initiative was formed in 2010.

MPI is a cooperative venture through which local government entities work together to purchase shared services and commodities – like road resurfacing, asphalt patching, crack sealing, and hydrant painting. At the core of MPI is finding a way to leverage resources, control costs, seek out best practices and learn more about new ways to provide services efficiently. The original group of 18 municipalities has grown to more than 30 local governmental entities participating in more than 25 joint bidding projects. The economies of scale have achieved total aggregate savings of approximately \$2.1 million to \$2.6 million for the taxpayers of the participating towns from 2011 through 2015.

“This award recognizes the collaboration by all the municipalities whose staffs have worked to put bid packages together,” Village President Jim Patterson stated. “Creative ideas like the Municipal Partnering Initiative can work because of the commitment to regional cooperation shown by Glenview and its partner governments.”

MPI is part of the Bright Ideas award cohort that includes programs from all levels of government – school districts, county, city, state, federal agencies, tribal nations and public-private partnerships – that represent the next horizon of government work to improve services, solve problems, and work on behalf of citizens.

“These programs demonstrate that there are no prerequisites for doing the good work of governing,” stated Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Program at the Ash Center. “Small towns and massive cities, huge federal agencies and local school districts, large budgets or no budgets at all – what makes

government work best is the drive to do better, and this group proves that drive can be found anywhere.”

This is the fifth cohort recognized through the Bright Ideas program, an initiative of the broader Innovations in American Government Awards program. For consideration as a Bright Idea, programs must currently be in operation or in the process of launching, have sufficient operational resources, and must be administered by one or more governmental entities; nonprofit, private sector, and union initiatives are eligible if operating in partnership with a governmental organization.

Bright Ideas are showcased on the Ash Center’s Government Innovators Network, an online platform for practitioners and policymakers to share innovative public policy solutions. The full list of Bright Ideas programs can be found online at: <http://innovations.harvard.edu>.

This is the latest honor for MPI, which was also recognized with an Outstanding Achievement in Innovation Award in 2012 by the Alliance for Innovation; a Community Partnership Award in 2012 from the International City/County Management Association; and a Local Transformer Award in 2015 by Transform Illinois.

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