

MANAGEMENT INNOVATION:

TECHNOLOGY

Electronic Board Packets

Doug Garver, Executive Director
Steve McVey, Chief Information Officer

2014 Entry Form (Complete one for each entry.)

	Fill out th	ne entry name <i>exactly</i> as	you want it listed in	n the program.	
Entry Name					
HFA					
Submission Contact					
Phone			Email		
For more info Use this head HFA	ormation a	oe received by Tuesday Ibout Qualified Entries Ipper right corner of each	, <u>click here to acces</u> ch page.	s the 2014 Entry Rules.	
Communic	rations	Homeownership	Rental	Special Needs	

Communications	Homeownership	Rental Housing	Special Needs Housing
☐ Annual Report ☐ Promotional Materials and Newsletters ☐ Creative Media	☐ Empowering New Buyers☐ Home Improvement and Rehabilitation☐ Encouraging New Production	☐ Multifamily Management☐ Preservation and Rehabilitation☐ Encouraging New Production	☐ Combating Homelessness ☐ Housing for Persons with Special Needs
Legislative Advocacy	Management Innovation	Special Achievement	Are you providing visual aids?
☐ State Advocacy ☐ Federal Advocacy	☐ Financial ☐ Human Resources ☐ Operations	☐ Special Achievement	☐ YES ☐ NO

2014 NCSHA Award Nomination

HFA: Ohio Housing Finance Agency

Category: Management Innovation – Technology

Entry Name: Electronic Board Packets

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The Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) is governed by an 11-member board who meet at least once per month. These members also serve on six committees that meet prior to the Board meeting. Before the Agency's conversion to the electronic board packet, the process of preparing materials for Board and committee consideration was inefficient and time consuming. Hours were spent copying, collating and sending documents via overnight mail. If last minute changes were necessary for previously distributed materials, corrections entailed wasting reams of paper, more copying and collating, and/or a series of emails to Board members outlining the revisions.

At the executive director's request, the executive assistant worked with a member of OHFA's Office of Information Technology to conduct a search of electronic programs for Board communication and identified the BoardDocs® service, a cloud-based application which users may access from any internet-capable device. The application was tested and ultimately selected by the executive office due to its ease of use and implementation.

BoardDocs® has dramatically improved the Board material preparation process since its implementation in October 2013. The BoardDocs® program is protected as "view-only," and cannot be changed or deleted by anyone other than designated publishers. A note-taking feature is available for all users who wish to jot down private observations, reminders or questions.

Implementation

Publishers attended a two-day training for instruction on how to "build" Board packets; Board members and staff members were trained to use the system during a one-hour meeting.

Cost

The cost of the application is approximately \$15,000 per year, with a one-time implementation charge of \$1,000.

Benefits to the Agency

BoardDocs® provides instantaneous download and delivery of Board materials. If corrections, additions or deletions are needed, it can be accomplished at any time prior to (or even during) Board meetings. Documents and large reports are quickly and easily uploaded and attached to a specific agenda item. Board members no longer carry large amounts of paper when travelling and have 24/7 access to materials for current or past meetings.

In addition, this system offers public transparency. With Wi-Fi access during Board and committee meetings, all attendees are free to access information posted for public viewing at any time with an internet-capable device.

BoardDocs® saves on labor expenses, paper costs and overnight shipping fees. Previously, three full-time workers devoted an entire day to Board material preparation. Now, two people can prepare the Board and committee meeting packets, relieving a third person to attend to other daily priorities.

In addition to Board materials, BoardDocs® offers a library to store important Agency reference materials such as the Annual Report, Annual Plan and Needs Assessment, Qualified Allocation Plan and past meeting minutes.

Strategic Priorities

By adopting BoardDocs® technology, OHFA has significantly improved transparency and efficiency by providing timely information to its Board members to ensure they have access to the most current, correct and complete information necessary which enables them to more effectively serve the citizens of Ohio.

Attachments: Screen shots

BoardDocs



