

GOVERNMENT PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS

Florida
TaxWatch



Presented by:





ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS

The **Government Productivity Awards** recognizes state employees' achievements in areas such as process improvement, technology integration, and creative problem-solving.

Past winners come from every state agency in Florida, and include everyone from agency secretaries, to transportation safety workers, to environmental engineers. Awards like these show that **Florida truly has the nation's best public employees**, and we are excited to see what groundbreaking ideas and actions are still to come.

The Government Productivity Awards not only serve as a platform to showcase success stories but also inspire a culture of innovation within the public sector. By acknowledging and promoting these achievements, the program aims to foster a collaborative environment that encourages employees to think outside the box and implement forward-thinking strategies.

2026 Nominator's Guidebook

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Nominations Process



Nomination Schedule

- Nominations Open: June 3, 2026
- Nominations Close: July 15, 2026
- Nominators Notified: August 14, 2026
- Awards Ceremony: September 1, 2026

Agency Leadership

Agency leadership plays a crucial role in the program's success.

We encourage you to promote the initiative within your agency and nominate the **top two cost-saving and innovative projects** deserving of a Government Productivity Award.

If selected, we ask that agency leadership or a designate present your agency's project at the 2026 Awards Ceremony and manage logistical details within your agency, including coordinating photos, attendance, and participation.

Please ensure a thorough review of every nomination before submission, as you may not alter nominations following submission. You will receive an email confirmation for each nomination for your agency's records.

Awards Ceremony

- Date: Tuesday, September 1
- Time: 3:00 PM
- Location: Florida Historic Capitol Museum



How to Nominate

Once nominations are open, they can be made at:
<https://floridataxwatch.org/Productivity-Awards>



Nominations Checklist

The nomination questions guide the nominator through the judges' assessment process, before you submit ensure that you are meeting the points on this checklist.

- ✓ Each question is significant, so please answer each question separately.
- ✓ Keep your nomination simple and jargon-free so those without industry knowledge can understand it.
- ✓ Double-check all names for correct spelling before submission. We will not reprint plaques or certificates due to misspellings on the nomination form.
- ✓ If the nomination could appear as a description of standard job duties, ensure you explain how the nominee(s) exceeded what would normally be expected.
- ✓ **Use only direct, actual expenses** when calculating cost savings for this nomination. Do not add indirect costs, as these costs cannot be verified.
- ✓ If a nomination claims to use technology that has been standard for many years, such as AI integration, internet instead of mail, or creating a simple spreadsheet, explain why it is **truly innovative**.

Criteria For Evaluation

Understanding the criteria judges use can significantly improve the quality of nominations. Projects should align with key evaluation metrics including, but not limited to:



Cost Saving

Demonstrate specific actual financial benefits.



Innovative

Highlight novel approaches or technologies used.



Impactful

Detail the positive outcomes for the public or internal processes.



Replicable

Show potential for applications in other departments or agencies.

Supporting Documents

To allow nominators to provide the most compelling nominations, we will continue to accept, but not require, supporting documents.

Supporting documents, though optional, can significantly enhance a nomination. Please consider carefully any documentation that may illustrate or significantly enhance your submission.

For example, a detailed breakdown explaining a complex cost-savings calculation would be an appropriate supporting document.

Have Questions?

Contact Us

 (850) 222.5052

 ProductivityAwards@floridataxwatch.org

Frequently Asked Questions

1 Who Should Receive a Nomination?

Any employee or team of employees of the State of Florida who created an innovative or outstanding idea or practice qualifies for nomination. This idea or practice must have been integrated within the past 1-5 years, have lead to direct taxpayer savings, improved service delivery, or enhanced overall taxpayer value.

2 Who Qualifies for Nomination?

Only full-time or OPS state employees qualify. Private contractors, consultants, and other outside entities do not.

3 Who Can Nominate?

Each agency may nominate up to two (2) projects integrated within the past 1-5 years. Those submissions may come from anyone in the agency, but each agency may nominate only two. Unless Florida TaxWatch receives an email from Senior Agency Leadership indicating otherwise, Government Productivity Awards judges will consider only the first two nominations received from each agency.

4 What Prize Does a Winning Nomination Receive?

There is a total prize pool of \$25,000 that will be divided among a maximum of 10 winning teams. All winning nominations receive a TEAM cash prize, plaque, and media recognition. So, for example, if you submit a nomination with five state employees listed, each state employee will receive a check made payable to them divided out of the TEAM prize total. For additional information regarding state employees accepting Government Productivity Awards prize money, please see, inter alia, CEO 06-14—August 2, 2006.

5 When Will Winners Learn of Their Selection?	All nominators (or designated contacts) will receive an email by August 14, 2026, indicating if the judges selected their submission as a 2026 Government Productivity Awards winner.
6 How Do Judges Select Winners?	A panel of judges, composed of business leaders from across the state, carefully evaluates all nominations. After careful review, the judges vote on the top projects, which will be recognized as 2026 Government Productivity Award winners.
7 How Many Plaques Does Each Winning Nomination Receive?	Each winning nomination receives one plaque. If a team desires additional plaques, they can purchase more directly from Awards4U.
8 What Format Does the Awards Ceremony Follow?	The Awards Ceremony lasts approximately two hours, during which each of the winning teams presents their project in a 3–5-minute presentation and receives their prize. The team will participate in a short video interview with the Florida TaxWatch during the event to promote their project and the program. This event also offers a valuable networking opportunity with colleagues, state legislative leaders, and business executives from across the state.
9 When and Where Does the 2026 Awards Ceremony Occur?	• Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 3:00-5:30 pm • Historic Florida Capitol Museum 400 S Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32399