



**Safe States Alliance  
Innovative Initiatives Program & Annual Award**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Innovative Initiatives Program is designed to provide members of the Safe States Alliance with an opportunity to celebrate and showcase the successes of their injury and violence prevention programs. *An "innovative initiative" is any unique activity, project, or program that has been implemented and demonstrated some promising impact toward decreasing injuries and violence in your state, city, or community.*

By submitting an "Innovative Initiative" you can:

- Bring attention, prestige, and acclaim to your injury and violence prevention initiatives;
- Educate legislators, decision-makers, and the general public about the value of injury and violence prevention programs;
- Demonstrate how your resources have been well-invested and well-utilized;
- Serve as an encouraging and inspiring example to other states and territories; and
- Illustrate that injury and violence prevention programs are not only beneficial, but essential.

Through the Innovative Initiatives Program, injury and violence prevention programs will be able to further display their immense value to their communities, as well as the field of public health practice.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

1. All Safe States members are invited to submit their "innovative initiatives" using the *Innovative Initiative Submission Form* on the [Safe States Website](#).
2. A Safe States member may enter up to three (3) different initiatives. For each initiative, a significant portion of program activities and/or evaluation must have taken place during the 2015 Fiscal Year (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015).
3. A logic model that includes short, mid and long term outcomes must accompany each nominated initiative.
4. All nominated initiatives must be Safe States members.
5. Submissions will be accepted through **Friday, February 5, 2016**.
6. All "Innovative Initiative" submissions will be placed on the *Safe States Exchange* site in the Knowledge Center to serve as a source of information and inspiration for all Safe States members.

- Finalists or their designee must be able to present their initiative on a Safe States hosted webinar for membership on **February 24, 2016**.

### THE "INNOVATIVE INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR" AWARD

- An Award Selection Workgroup comprised of Safe States Alliance members will review all submissions to develop a pool of the strongest initiatives. Submissions will be assessed based on each initiative's innovative characteristics, programmatic components, the significance of barriers that were overcome, and the impact the initiative had in working toward the alleviation of the targeted public health problem (*See Award Selection Criteria*).
- Up to a total of four (4) initiatives with the highest scores (as determined by the Award Selection Workgroup) will be considered finalists for the award. The finalist or their designee **must present their initiative on a Safe States hosted webinar on February 24, 2016**. The full Safe States membership will be invited to participate in the webinar and review descriptions of all finalists to inform their vote for favorite initiative.
- The winning "Innovative Initiative" (the initiative with the majority of votes from members) will be announced and honored at the Safe States Annual Meeting with the "Innovative Initiative of the Year" award.
- The winning "Innovative Initiative" will also be promoted with a nationally-circulated press release, and will have a signed letter sent to their state health official, governor, and U.S. Senators notifying them of the award. Information from all finalists' initiatives may also be used in Safe States Alliance promotional materials and resources as needed.

### AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

The Award Selection Workgroup will score each initiative on a 100-point scale based on three criteria:

- Innovative Characteristics (45 points)
- Program Outcomes & Impact (40 points)
- Barriers & Obstacles (15 points)

#### **Innovative Characteristics (45 points)**

- What characteristics make this entry innovative, creative, or unique?*
- Does the initiative's approach differ from common or well-known programs or activities? If so, how?*
- Where any unique partnerships or collaborations developed as a part of the initiative?*
- If you were a layperson (not necessarily a public health professional), would you perceive this initiative to be unique and/or engaging?*
- Would you or those you know be encouraged to replicate this initiative?*

#### **Program Evaluation, Outcomes, and Impact (40 points)**

- What are the measurable process and impact outcomes or benefits associated with the initiative?*

- *What are the results or benefits associated with the initiative?*
- *How does this initiative show promise for making an impact on the targeted public health problem?*
- *Please attach a logic model that includes short, mid and long term outcomes for the initiative.*

**Innovative Responses to Barriers and Obstacles (15 points)**

- *What barriers or obstacles did the organization have to overcome to make this initiative possible?*
- *What was your innovative approach to addressing these challenges or barriers?*

*Please contact Julie Alonso at [Julie.Alonso@safestates.org](mailto:Julie.Alonso@safestates.org) with any questions about the Innovative Initiatives Program & Annual Award.*