

**Quality and Productivity Commission**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program**  
**"Heritage of Excellence"**

**2016 APPLICATION**

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12 point font):

**NAME OF PROJECT: TRANSPARENCY IS OPEN DATA**

**DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION/ADOPTION:** APRIL 27, 2015  
 (Must have been implemented at least one year - on or before July 1, 2015)

**PROJECT STATUS:**  Ongoing  One-time only

**HAS YOUR DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED THIS PROJECT?**  Yes  No

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Describe the project in 15 lines or less using Arial 12 point font. State clearly and concisely what difference the project has made.

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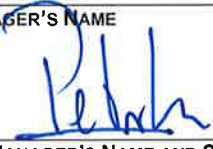

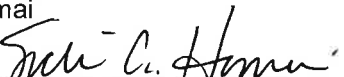
The Countywide Open Data Initiative (CODI) was implemented to create a cohesive Countywide data sharing platform that provides machine-readable or raw data to the public, the business community, and County departments and partner agencies to enable greater collaboration and engagement, strengthening the connection between the County and its constituents. CODI further focuses on enhancing County transparency and accountability for enhancing public trust and building confidence in County services while increasing awareness of County operations. CODI also assists to stimulate competitive business and technological innovations/entrepreneurship building the economic ground that supports County-private partnerships entice economic growth and improve services.

In the last year, over 124 million records have been loaded into the portal for public viewing, generating over 4 million views with most views coming from outside organizations such as Google, LAIST, LA Times, and the Daily News.

**BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY**

(1) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE	(2) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	(3) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE	(1) + (2) + (3) = TOTAL ANNUAL ACTUAL/ESTIMATED BENEFIT	SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
\$ 500,000	\$	\$	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ANNUAL = 12 MONTHS ONLY

<b>SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS</b> CEO/ Chief Information Office 350 S Figueroa Ave, St 188, Los Angeles, CA 91702		<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b> 213.253.5601
<b>PROGRAM MANAGER'S NAME</b> Peter Loo 		<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>
<b>PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE</b> (PLEASE CALL (213) 893-0322 IF YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME) Kimberly Jo 		<b>DATE</b> 6/30/16
<b>DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE</b> Sachi Hamai 		<b>EMAIL</b> KJO@cio.lacounty.gov
		<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b> SHAMAI@cio.lacounty.gov

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Challenge

Sharing data with the public is not a new concept. The County of Los Angeles collects and shares a wide range of data with the public – however, this information is usually hard to find and harder to understand. County data sets vary from local maps and permits to restaurant ratings and election results. As a result, each department has a different method for searching, sharing, accessing, and using data.

Solution

The County of Los Angeles Open Data Portal ([www.data.lacounty.gov](http://www.data.lacounty.gov)) changed how the County shares information with the public. Open Data is the idea that raw data generated or collected by government agencies should be available to everyone to use freely without restrictions or other control mechanisms.

In October 2014, the Chief Information Office (CIO) issued a request for bid to procure software to host the County’s Open Data Portal. As a leading provider for data portals being used by many federal, state, local, international, and nongovernment organizations, including Los Angeles and Santa Monica, the acquired software met all the County’s technical requirements including information security and disaster recover requirements.

Once the software was acquired, CIO managed the infrastructure and administration of the Open Data portal, and worked with each department to identify an Open Data coordinator. The initial data sets for the launch of the portal were provided by ten different departments, including the Assessor, Sheriff, Public Health, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Public Works and Auditor-Controller.

Just as technology and culture has shifted towards self-service systems, the portal aims to provide self-service access to County open data resources that is easy to find and easy to use. The Open Data portal offers nine possible downloadable formats accommodating both citizen friendly PDF, CSV and Excel extension files, as well as more technically advanced formats such as XML, JSON, and RSS. The portal also provides capabilities for developers and community organizations to link to the data through application programming interfaces (API) or website embedding that assist otherwise distinct applications with sharing data. Furthermore, the data can be sorted by category and searched by key word the way that people are accustomed to. You can download, embed, or use custom application interfacing for consumption, as opposed to having to place special requests or pay to purchase data from departments. The portal unifies all departmental open data onto one platform.

Along with data sets, the Open Data Portal offers customizable visualizations and analytics tools that include filtering, sorting, charting and mapping capabilities so people can review and analyze information visually. You can easily create and save charts, filters, and maps making it easier to interpret and understand data.

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Benefits

The value of providing County data through a centrally-managed data portal include:

- Empowering County citizens, businesses, media, and academia to develop new insights and innovations that enable more informed decision-making.
- Increasing collaboration across a number of community organizations, government agencies, and research institutions for data-driven policy and outcome measures.
- Facilitating a new way of communication that helps to improve the flow of information within and between agencies.
- Meeting federal and state regulations for increased data sharing and publishing of open data.
- Stimulating innovation with the development of new analyses, applications, and insights.
- Companies, individuals, nonprofits, and other government agencies can use the data for transparency, accountability, public/private partnerships, cross department efficiencies and innovation.
- Reduction in overall infrastructure and service costs of collecting and managing data shared amongst 16 different County agencies.

Some highlights from departments who publish data sets on the portal include:

- Auditor-Controller: The Open Budget ([budget.lacounty.gov](http://budget.lacounty.gov)) and Open Expenditures ([expenditures.lacounty.gov](http://expenditures.lacounty.gov)) modules provide greater transparency and understanding of County financial data.
- Office of the Assessor: The Assessor provides parcel information and assessment valuations for more than 2.3 million property records, the largest set of assessment data ever published online. It has allowed users to download archived and indexed data on their own for free instead of requesting costly and time-consuming reports, thus saving citizens and the County money.
- Arts Commission: The detailed site and map data on over 226 museums strengthened their connection to the public as a leader in the Arts community.

The County Open Data Portal provides the public with easy to access and easy to read data on LA County Museums, Crime Data, Parcel Information, and statistics that promote transparency and empower citizens and agency innovation. Transparency is Open Data.

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**This initiative effectively supports the Strategic Plan Goals below:**

1. **Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability:** Maximize the effectiveness of processes, structure, operations, and strong fiscal management to support timely delivery of customer-oriented and efficient public services.
  - a. **Strategic Initiative 4:** Innovative Technology Application - Develop innovative Information Technology solutions that achieve efficiencies and transform service delivery.
  - b. **Strategic Initiative 5:** Legacy System Replacement - Develop criteria, establish priority, fund and initiate the modernization or replacement of critical legacy systems.
  
2. **Community Support and Responsiveness:** Enrich lives of Los Angeles County residents by providing enhanced services, and effectively planning and responding to economic, social, and environmental challenges.
  - a. **Strategic Initiative 1:** Customer Service Innovation/Enhancement - Reinvent how County services and products are provided to the public, utilizing more intuitive, customer-centric approaches to achieve maximum outcome and customer satisfaction.
  - b. **Strategic Initiative 2:** Job Creation Efforts - Increase the number of Los Angeles County residents that obtain employment in industries and sectors that pay living wages and provide a path for future professional growth.

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**COST AVOIDANCE, COST SAVINGS, AND REVENUE GENERATED (ESTIMATED BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY):** If you are claiming cost benefits, include a calculation on this page. You must include an explanation of the County cost savings, cost avoidance or new revenue that matches the numbers in the box.

Remember to keep your supporting documentation. Use Arial 12 point font

**Cost Avoidance:** Costs that are eliminated or not incurred as a result of program outcomes.

**Cost Savings:** A reduction or lessening of expenditures as a result of program outcomes.

**Revenue:** Increases in existing revenue streams or new revenue sources to the County as a result of program outcomes.

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