



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

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***Christie Administration Recognized for Skilled Use of Technology
To Improve the Quality of Life and Economic Prospects of New Jersey***

TRENTON – The Christie Administration’s skilled and innovative use of technology on behalf of New Jersey’s citizens has earned national recognition from two groups known for their dedication to good government.

The Center for Digital Government, a national research and advisory institute focused on technology policy in state and local government, named New Jersey as one of the top five states for Information Technology leadership. The Center gives this recognition to states that show the most robust use of technology to adapt quickly and effectively to the changing needs of citizens.

“Under this Administration, we are leveraging technological innovation to make State government more impactful,” Governor Christie said. “Our commitment to taxpayers requires that we seek out the most innovative and cost-effective technological tools and this award highlights our record of success in achieving that strategic goal.”

Recognition of New Jersey’s technological leadership comes as the State received its highest ranking in six years in the Center’s Digital States Survey, the most comprehensive and widely referenced evaluation of the technology capabilities of state governments. New Jersey’s ranking reflects that it is “trending up” and has leaders who “use modernization to change entrenched practices.”

The improved ranking, announced in August, resulted from Governor Christie’s leadership “and the fact that each of his initiatives, in some way, relies on technology,” the Survey evaluators found. Among other initiatives, the survey cited the Administration’s rapid application of technology:
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- In efforts to speed recovery from Super Storm Sandy;
- To create a system to help prevent ex-convicts from returning to prison;
- To install a facial recognition system that identifies criminals who try to create false identities, and
- To successfully leverage federal funds as part of a pilot project to develop a high-speed data system for law enforcement, firefighters, medical personnel and other first responders.

Other national organizations also recognized the Administration's technological savvy with unprecedented awards in August, including the Government Management Information Sciences (GMIS) organization. GMIS presented New Jersey's Office of Information Technology (OIT) with its top award, recognizing "a shining example of how governments should be expanding their reach in their delivery of public services."

OIT is an "in-but-not-of" agency within the Department of the Treasury. The award acknowledged OIT's critical role in creating the "Big Data Alliance," a partnership of major public and private universities and state governments that will develop the best methods to process vast quantities of data required by large institutions.

"Big data poses both significant challenges and tantalizing opportunities that will require new strategies for the State's information technology infrastructure," Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff said. "Leaders in the private and public sectors expect to take full advantage of this Alliance to create a stronger climate for both research and economic growth in New Jersey."

OIT worked with the Economic Development Authority and the Legislature in the creation and passage of Assembly Bill 2218, designating the Big Data Alliance as the State's "advanced cyber infrastructure consortium." Eight universities, including Princeton and Rutgers, are part of the Alliance.

GMIS also gave its Best Practices Award to the New Jersey Data Governance Office, part of the Office of Chief Information Officer, which is headed by E. Steven Emanuel. The award recognizes "trailblazers and risk takers who find innovative, exciting and sometimes genius ways of delivering citizen services." Emanuel has tasked the Data Governance Office with developing policies and procedures to improve the quality of State data and provide for more effective and efficient usage of this data.

"Perhaps no segment of IT service delivery holds as much promise as the discipline of Big Data governance," Emanuel said. "New Jersey is working to create the necessary physical and policy infrastructure to fully benefit from the tremendous promise of Big Data to deliver better, more efficient services to every citizen."

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