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Ohio receives top national rating for digital modernization efforts

Ohio is one of five states in the country to receive an “A” rating

COLUMBUS (Sept. 19, 2016) — For the first time Ohio has received a top grade for its use of technology to increase the efficiency of government operations and provide a better value to Ohio taxpayers. Ohio was recognized for the success of its IT Optimization program that centralizes delivery of information technology (IT) services across all levels of state government.

Ohio was awarded an “A” rating as part of the Center for Digital Government’s survey measuring state government use of digital technologies to improve service delivery and reach state policy goals. The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government.

The survey, which recognizes Ohio’s achievements, provides a common reference for all 50 states in the ongoing work of finding better ways to serve the public. Ohio’s “A” rating was an improvement over an “A-” when the ratings were last released in 2014.

“Collaboration is the key to our success,” said Ohio’s CIO Stu Davis. “The courage and leadership demonstrated by agency partners has been outstanding. Together, we are making a difference — benefiting our citizens, business and constituents.

“Ohio, through its IT Optimization program, is reinventing the way state government leverages technology to support its citizens and businesses. Over the last five years, Ohio has redirected millions of dollars of state agency IT spend from infrastructure and IT operations to investing in what matters – citizen and business centric applications and services. To date, cumulative savings are more than \$120 million,” Davis explained.

Ohio’s savings have been realized through:

- Migration of 120+ agencies and boards into a unified structure and operating model.
- Remediation of the State of Ohio Computer Center to a Tier III, secure data center and one of the top 10 single building data centers in the country.
- Migration of more than 5,500 individually-managed servers to the state computer center.
- Managing hardware in a “state cloud” or virtual shared environment resulted in efficiency gains of 860%.
- Moving more than 60,000 email accounts to a single, statewide platform.
- Launch of enterprise shared services, including document imaging and management, timekeeping and service management.

Redirected funds are being used to strategically enhance high-speed connectivity for local governments and educational, medical and research institutions; statewide emergency and first responder communications; disaster recovery services for mission critical applications; and statewide reporting, data sharing and analytics.

A national overview of all 50 states and their grades can be located at www.centerdigitalgov.com as well as the center’s press release announcing the survey findings.

About DAS:

The Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) provides quality centralized services, specialized support and innovative solutions to state agencies, boards and commissions. The agency assists customers with information

technology, human resources, procurement, printing, risk management, fleet management and real estate needs as well as quality initiatives. DAS also helps ensure equal opportunity to and fair treatment in government contracting and state employment.