**ACC-OC is Proud to Present the 2024 Golden Hub of Innovation Awards. Please see below for Categories and Nomination Process:**

**Technology-Driven Transparent Governance Excellence:** This category celebrates initiatives at the intersection of technology and governance, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and efficiency. It honors innovative approaches that leverage digital solutions to enhance citizen engagement, streamline operations, and foster trust between government entities and communities. Nominations should highlight the effective utilization of technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives, such as smart city projects, e-government solutions, participatory budgeting platforms, open data initiatives, and community feedback mechanisms. These initiatives should demonstrate tangible improvements in transparency, inclusivity, and responsiveness within governance processes, ultimately leading to enhanced public services and citizen satisfaction.

**Collaborative Community Development & Innovation**: This category recognizes initiatives that drive community investment, economic development, and innovation through effective collaborations between public and private sectors. It celebrates programs that rejuvenate neighborhoods, attract investment, and foster economic growth while delivering innovative solutions to address community needs. Nominations should highlight projects that create jobs, enhance infrastructure, support small businesses, and improve public amenities through successful public-private partnerships. These initiatives should showcase tangible outcomes such as revitalized communities, increased economic opportunities, and improved quality of life for residents.

**Community Safety and Resilience Excellence:** This category recognizes initiatives that prioritize community safety, resilience, and preparedness in the face of various challenges. It celebrates innovations that enhance public safety agencies' effectiveness while also bolstering resilience and emergency response capabilities. Nominations should showcase how these initiatives, whether through crime prevention programs, community policing, disaster mitigation projects, or innovative emergency communication strategies, contribute to safer neighborhoods, more efficient emergency services, and greater community preparedness for future challenges.

**Environmental Sustainability & Energy Efficiency**: Promoting environmental sustainability and energy efficiency is essential for mitigating climate change and reducing costs. This category acknowledges initiatives that have implemented sustainable practices, reduced energy consumption, or improved environmental quality. Nominations should showcase projects that have implemented renewable energy solutions, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, or promoted eco-friendly practices, leading to tangible environmental benefits.

**Transportation Innovation and Mobility Solutions**: Highlighting innovative transportation solutions and mobility initiatives that improve connectivity, reduce congestion, and enhance mobility options for Orange County residents. Nominations may include projects focused on transit expansion, active transportation infrastructure, smart mobility technologies, or initiatives to improve transportation equity and accessibility. Recognizing efforts to enhance the efficiency, safety, and sustainability of the region's transportation systems.

**• ACC-OC Innovator of the Year**: Recognizing individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and creativity in driving innovation within public agencies.

• **City Staff Leader of the Year:** Celebrating staff members who have shown exemplary dedication and leadership in spearheading innovative programs or initiatives.

**• City Manager of the Year:** Honoring city managers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, collaboration, and commitment to addressing the challenges facing their communities.

• **First Responder of the Year:** Recognizing the bravery and dedication of first responders, including veterans, who have gone above and beyond in serving and protecting their communities.

**Nomination Forms can be emailed to Lauren Kline, Director of Programs and Operations at** **lkline@accoc.org** **Please submit your application by Wednesday, April 24th.**

**Please select the Category you wish to nominate:**

[ ] **Technology-Driven Transparent Governance Excellence**[ ] **Collaborative Community Development & Innovation**[ ] **Community Safety and Resilience Excellence**[ ] **Environmental Sustainability & Energy Efficiency**[ ] **Transportation Innovation and Mobility Solutions**[ ] **ACC-OC Innovator of the Year**[ ] **City Staff Leader of the Year**[ ] **City Manager of the Year**[ ] **First Responder of the Year**

**Please provide detailed information as to why you believe this person or project should be considered to win the category (Please include links or attachments in body of email):**