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RELEASE: Auditor Sand Announces 2023 Public Innovations and Efficiencies (PIE) Awards in Capitol Event

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STATE AUDITOR ROB SAND HIGHLIGHTS FOOD RESCUE EFFORTS, ANNOUNCES 2023 PUBLIC INNOVATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES (PIE) AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DES MOINES – Auditor of state Rob Sand Monday held a news conference with Des Moines Public School District Superintendent Dr. Ian Roberts to tout the success of Des Moines Public Schools' food rescue program as participants in the Auditor's Public Innovations and Efficiencies (PIE) program. Auditor Sand also announced winners across the state of Iowa.

"Food rescue is exactly the kind of innovation we had in mind when we first created the PIE program four years ago," said Sand during the event. "Where compassion and innovation meet lies efficiency, and I'm proud that we get to present our first 2023 award to the folks at Des Moines Independent Community School District—they've gone above and beyond to reduce waste and improve support for the most vulnerable members of the communities they serve."

Sand created the PIE program in 2019 to encourage public entities across Iowa to think outside the box and spark innovative ideas to save public funds. The PIE program checklist provides local leaders with tools to collaborate and share their concepts, known as PIE recipes, via the Auditor of State's website. *"While food rescue is just one of the items on our checklist of PIE recipes, it's one worth sharing far and wide,"* said Sand, noting that during a time of higher costs for families, many struggle to make ends meet—even grappling with food insecurity. Sand continued, *"PIE provides local leaders with an easy, streamlined sharing process—that's why each year, we've seen more engagement than the last."*

The PIE program has proven so successful that the Mississippi State Auditor, a Republican, copied the program for use in his own state—even using the same name. *"The appeal of PIE is that everybody likes good government—Republican, Democratic, or independent. Good government shouldn't have partisan blinders,"* said Sand. Auditor Sand will hand-deliver a pie to officials in each community at a later date.

For more information about the PIE program or to schedule an interview with Auditor Sand, please email cj.petersen@aos.iowa.gov or call/text 515.388.0698.

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2023 PIE Award Recipients**Counties**

Largest County: Polk

Smallest County: Ringgold

Best Performing County, Overall: Fayette

Best Performing Counties, Awarded Within Categories of Size: Johnson, Fayette, Clayton, Montgomery, Pocahontas

Most Improved County: Polk

Cities

Largest City: Cedar Rapids

Smallest City: Beaconsfield

Best Performing City, Overall: Cedar Rapids

Best Performing Cities, Awarded Within Categories of Size: Cedar Rapids, Guttenberg, Alleman & Grand Mount (TIE), Plainfield, Garden Grove

Most Improved City: Melbourne

School Districts

Largest School District: Des Moines Public Schools

Smallest School District: Olin Community Schools

Best Performing School District, Overall: Iowa City Community Schools

Best Performing 4A School District: Iowa City Community Schools

Runner-Up Best Performing 4A School District: Des Moines Public Schools

Best Performing 3A School District: Greene County Community Schools

Runner-Up Best Performing 3A School District: Okoboji Community Schools

Best Performing 2A School District: North Cedar Community Schools

Runner-Up Best Performing 2A School District: Bedford Community Schools

Best Performing 1A School District: Hamburg Community Schools

Runner-Up Best Performing 1A School District: Olin Community Schools

Most Improved School District: Norwalk Community Schools

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