2020 CHALLENGE AWARDS ENTRY FORM

ISSUE AREA CATEGORY: Disaster/Emergency Response & Management

POPULATION CATEGORY: Suburban

County Name: Sonoma

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TITLE OF THIS ENTRY: SoCo COVID-19 Check App

OVERVIEW: Sonoma County COVID-19 Check App provides a wellness check for Sonoma County employees and employers to help minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace and community.

CHALLENGE: In early 2020, the County of Sonoma faced the global challenge of mitigating the spread of COVID-19 within our communities. Due to the exponential rate at which we understood the virus spread, it was crucial to prevent essential employees from unwittingly spreading it to their coworkers. Due to the shelter-in-place orders in effect in April, and with less data available regarding employee spread, Sonoma County health officials wanted to take a proactive approach to aiding the community to safely re-open and offer services.

SOLUTION: Sonoma County quickly collaborated with IBM to create the *SoCo COVID-19 Check* App. The app provides a daily questionnaire to track user's symptoms and potential exposures. If the employee is symptom free and has not been in recent contact with anyone with COVID-19, they will receive a badge including the date and time indicating they can report to work. The badge is shared with the employer and the employee is cleared for work from the employer side of the app. This prevents anyone who is at risk of having COVID-19 from entering the building. While social distancing and sanitizing tactics are critical, nothing is more effective than preventing contact in the first place.

INNOVATION: Three factors are essential to the large scale applicability of this app:

Privacy - Data provided through the app is housed on cloud-based servers and only accessible to Sonoma County and deleted after 45 days from collection. No data will ever be sold or made accessible to any other party. No profit will be made off this app. No personally identifiable information is collected or even requested.

Convenience - The app was designed to have a simple, intuitive design that allows people to navigate it from the second they pick it up. Filling out the survey, which determines whether or not you are eligible to go to work, takes less than a minute.

Celerity - This app would never have been adopted if it came weeks after businesses had reopened. The development process was expedited through daily meetings release during larger reopening process was still occurring. Sonoma County was the first governmental entity in the country to release a Covid-19 app around safe screening to return to work, school, etc.

RESULTS: Based on the most current data, 857 companies are using the application, 23,488 people have downloaded that app, and 385,868 total wellness checks have been submitted. The data available from the app, has provided a broader picture to Sonoma County Health Officials, contributing to more informed policies in response to this unprecedented pandemic.

REPLICABILITY: Given Sonoma County's initiative to hire IBM and develop the app, other counties, local governments and even colleges can easily adopt the app at very low cost. Many local governments and colleges have already reached out such as Orange County (which has a population more than 6 times that of Sonoma County's) and West Valley College in Santa Clara.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

SoCo COVID-19 Check App Instructions and Information:

[SoCo COVID-19 Check App - Employee](#)

[SoCo COVID-19 Check App - Employer](#)

[SoCo COVID-19 Check App Information Page](#)