

































## 2016 Employer Recognition Awards





2016 Employer Recognition Awards

INCENTIVES WINNER



Middle East have collapsed health-care systems and strained government budgets for public-health efforts. The cumulative result-millions of have taken a step back and people constantly on the move, living in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions—has been the re-emergence of deadly diseases.

"Traditionally this region was free from many epidemic diseases. But we have seen a resurgence," said Mamun Malik, the World Health Organi-

zation's coordinator for health security and regulations in a broad region that includes the Middle East. "We our major focus is not elimination but just containment."

With renewed fighting in parts of Syria and Iraq, ongoing clashes in Yemen and Libva, and the start of the hot that children in Fallujah haand sometimes rainy summer season, "the risk is increasing substantially." Mr. Malik said.

In Iraq, a month-old, U.S.-

packed offensive to retake Falluiah from Islamic State drove tens of thousands of the remaining residents to flee to already overcrowded camps outside the city, where water, food and shelter are already in short supply, according to aid agencies.

The WHO said June 16 ven't been vaccinated since the extremist group Islamic State captured the city two vears ago. The government

ciamieu to nave regameu iun control of the city on Sunday.

Within Syria, millions of people are also out of reach for routine vaccinations because they are in areas controlled by Islamic State or besieged by the government.

Staffan de Mistura, the U.N. special envoy on Syria, said on June 9 that around 900,000 children were at risk of missing their booster shots, amid stuttering efforts to deliver humanitarian aid.

The U.N. and its partners carry out vaccine drives for children in Syria against eight infectious diseases, including measles and polio.

"The risks will always continue to be there as long as there is conflict, as long as there is displacement," said Juliette Touma, chief regional spokeswoman for Unicef.

A cholera outbreak last fall in Iraq spread to Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Iran before it was contained in De-

tween neius of potatoes, ca bage, cauliflower and peas have filled with at least 400,000 refugees. Many have been there far longer than anyone expected.

"The main problem with contamination is the children," said Amjad Dawood, an aid worker at the agency, World Vision, who oversees programs to improve water and waste management. "They will play with any-





# **NEWS**

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### Employers Receive Awards for Outstanding Commute Alternative Programs

Programs Help Reduce Millions of Vehicle Miles Traveled in the Region

Washington, D.C. – The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) today announced the winners of the 19th Annual Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards, recognizing employers in the region for their exceptional commitment to advancing alternative commute options to help mitigate traffic congestion and contribute to cleaner air through reduced auto emissions. The awards ceremony was held at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center.

Nominations for the Employer Recognition Awards are accepted each year in three categories: Incentives, Marketing, and Telework. This year's winners include Toole Design Group of Silver Spring, Maryland, for Incentives; MITRE Corporation of McLean, Virginia, for Marketing, and United Educators of Bethesda, Maryland, for Telework. Collectively the winning firms achieved a reduction of more than 8 million vehicle miles traveled this year in the metropolitan Washington region.

COG also presented two Employer Services awards for Organization Achievement and Sales Team Achievement to the District of Columbia's goDCgo program, and to Arlington County Commuter Services' Arlington Transportation Partners program.

"The Annual Employer Recognition Awards recognize and support the important role of employers in promoting commuter transportation alternatives in the region," said Nicholas Ramfos, Director of Commuter Connections. "Employers that support daily commuting transportation alternatives, such as ridesharing, bicycling, transit, and teleworking help create a better quality of life for their employees. Transportation benefits programs help attract and retain highly qualified employees, improve regional mobility, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

Representatives from COG's Commuter Connections program and local elected officials were on-hand for the awards ceremony, including National Capital Region



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The Commuter Connections 2016 Employer Recognition Awards recognized the Washington DC region's top employers for creating programs that encourage alternative transportation use for their employees. The winners collectively reduced more than 3.5 million vehicle miles traveled this year. We would like to congratulate the following 2016 winners of their respective categories:

### Incentives Award - Toole Design Group





Presenter: Gwen Wright, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Winner: Jennifer Toole, Toole Design Group

Emcee: Charles Allen, Councilmember District of Columbia

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