Become a GFOA Member

RESOURCE | EDUCATOR
FACILITATOR | ADVOCATE

#GFOA
gfoa.org
Thanks for taking the time to learn more about the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the benefits of membership.

Our mission is to promote excellence in state and local government financial management.

We are a resource, an educator, a facilitator, and an advocate for our members — nearly 20,000 finance officers across the United States and Canada. These officers work for:

- Cities, towns, and municipalities
- School districts, colleges, and universities
- Public employee retirement systems
- Federal agencies
- County governments
- Special districts and utilities
- States and provinces
- Private-sector organizations

GFOA also offers student memberships.

GFOA works tirelessly to provide our members with best practice information around accounting, auditing, budgeting, capital planning, debt management, financial reporting, pension and benefit administration, and treasury and investment management.

Become a GFOA member to get involved, enhance your skills, improve your profession, and take your career to the next level.

Please feel free to contact me at cmorrill@gfoa.org or tweet me @chrisgfoa.

Christopher P. Morrill
Executive Director/CEO

LEARN MORE Read GFOA's Professional Code of Ethics at gfoa.org/codeofethics.
Join Your Peers

Membership in GFOA comes with benefits that help you advance your career and move your government forward. It also comes with access to a network of nearly 20,000 peers, all working to resolve similar issues and make their governments better.

Career Benefits
- Obtain “how-to” instruction on a wide range of financial topics
- Enhance your technical skills
- Broaden your knowledge and deepen your expertise
- Achieve professional recognition
- Coordinate efforts with colleagues
- Develop leadership skills
- Network with peers

Government Benefits
- Receive relevant and timely content that will enhance your job performance
- Receive member discounts on publications, training seminars, the annual conference, and GFOA’s awards for recognition programs
- Direct technical inquiries to GFOA professional staff

Annual Student Scholarships
GFOA sponsors five scholarships to recognize and support outstanding full- and part-time students who are preparing for a career in state or local government finance. More than $90,000 in scholarships is awarded annually.
Find Yourself in GFOA

Where GFOA Members Are Located

59% of members have a CPA
47% of members have an advanced degree
MORE THAN 700 are Certified Public Finance Officers (CPFO)

Areas of Responsibility

Accounting | Auditing | Budgeting
Capital Planning | Debt Management | Economic Development
Financial Reporting | Information Technology | Payroll
Purchasing | Revenue Collection | Treasury Management
Member Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief Financial Officer (Finance Director)</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comptroller/Controller/Accounting Manager</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountant</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyst (Budget/Management)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Director</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Executive Officer (City Manager, Executive Director)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where Members Are Working

- **CITY, TOWN, OR VILLAGE**: 52%
- **COUNTY**: 25%
- **OTHER SPECIAL DISTRICT**: 13%
- **SCHOOL DISTRICT**: 5%
- **STATE/PROVINCE**: 3%
- **HIGHER EDUCATION**: 1%
- **RETIREDMENT SYSTEM**: 1%

The results are from the 2017 GFOA member survey.

“Individuals interested in government finance as a profession should pursue GFOA’s CPFO designation. The study materials and exams are challenging, but they provide a critical framework for understanding the existing, and ever-growing, complexity of government finance.”

—Betsy Schaffer, CPA, CPFO

Assistant Auditor-Controller, County of Santa Barbara, California
We Can Be Your Resource

Standing Committees
GFOA has seven standing committees that advise specific areas of government finance and develop GFOA’s public policy positions, recommended practices, and advisories. The standing committees meet twice a year, and are limited to 25 GFOA members each, selected through an application process and appointed by GFOA’s president. By formulating new policies, raising professional standards through recommended practices and advisories, and offering technological solutions, these committees provide practical information to GFOA members.

Research
GFOA conducts ongoing research on implementation of best practices in public-sector finance and can help address specific problems faced by governments with focused, custom research projects. Research reports, white papers, and case studies are posted at gfoa.org and cover topics such as budgeting, performance management, long-term financial planning, healthcare cost-containment, debt management, process improvement, and technology.

Publications
GFOA maintains an extensive inventory of books, e-books, guides, and other resources on governmental accounting, auditing, and financial reporting; capital finance and debt administration; financial management and budgeting; public retirement and benefits administration; and treasury and investment management, which are available for purchase with member discounts.
Technical and Advisory Services
Technical information, products, and services are provided to GFOA members and others interested in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, and the preparation of state and local government budget documents. At the heart of Technical Services’ activities are seven professional recognition programs, a technical inquiry service, publications, educational materials, and courses written and presented by staff.

Consulting Services
Advisory services for state and local governments on a variety of topics are available to GFOA members. GFOA is the leading provider of guidance for local governments on planning, procuring, and implementing technology projects to support business process improvement.

Websites
Visit gfoa.org to search training opportunities, best practices, resource centers, and award programs criteria and winners. Access case studies, templates, and best practice examples for school budgeting at smarterschoolspending.org.

PLUS! Access to Best Practices
GFOA best practices are recognized by finance officers, elected officials, and other government leaders as the standard for excellence in the financial management of governments.

Our complimentary suite of best practices, which are available at gfoa.org/bestpractices, covers financial policies, accounting and financial reporting, budgeting and financial planning, capital planning and economic development, debt management, financial management, pension and benefit administration, and treasury and investment management.

The best practices are developed by GFOA Standing Committees, made up of members recognized by their peers as leaders in the public finance field. GFOA also provides a number of resources specifically designed to assist in the implementation of best practices.

For more information or assistance, go to gfoa.org/bestpractices.
We Can Broaden Your Knowledge

Training Programs
GFOA offers training events on a host of topics across the country. They include CPE-accredited national training seminars and immersion courses, interactive internet training, and web-streaming events. On-demand e-learning opportunities are also available. Courses are developed and taught by public finance specialists and are offered at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels.

Annual Conference
Thousands of public finance professionals gather each year for this three-day conference to share ideas, develop technical and managerial skills, view new products, and network with peers from across the country and around the world. Participants can select concurrent sessions, discussion groups, and preconference training seminars to customize their own educational curriculum.

Certification
The Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) program was started by GFOA in 1997 to help standardize the core knowledge needed for public finance. Earning the designation of CPFO provides a well-recognized credential that verifies participants’ knowledge in the main disciplines of government finance. Candidates complete a home-study program and are required to pass examinations on each of five modules (governmental accounting, auditing, and financial reporting; operating and capital budgeting; debt management; treasury and investment management; and retirement and benefits, risk management, and procurement). Exams will be offered throughout the year.

The CPFO program is governed by GFOA’s Council on Certification. Technical and administrative support is provided by the Radford University Governmental and Nonprofit Assistance Center.
“Joining GFOA was one of the best decisions I have made in my career. This organization has continuously guided me and has been a part of my governmental accounting foundation from the staff level through my current senior leadership role.”
—Melinda Gildart, CPA, MBA
Controller, Chicago Board of Education, Illinois

UP TO 50 first-time annual conference attendee scholarships per state or province are awarded to first-time annual conference attendees who are GFOA active government members.

ALMOST 1,700 recipients have been awarded the scholarship since its inception four years ago.

LEARN MORE about this opportunity: e-mail firstannualconference@gfoa.org.

“In an era when available time and resources continue to be scarce, membership in GFOA constitutes professional development with a purpose.”
—William Jones
City Administrator, Mequon, Wisconsin
Awards for Recognition Programs
Seven award programs are sponsored by GFOA to encourage, facilitate, and recognize excellence in financial reporting, budgeting, and other aspects of financial management. More than 6,300 governments participate in the award programs each year:

- Award for Best Practices in Community College Budgeting
- Award for Best Practices in School Budgeting
- Award for Excellence in Government Finance
- Award for Popular Annual Financial Reporting
- Canadian Award for Financial Reporting
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Member Networking
GFOA facilitates several networking groups focused on different types of governments for members to discuss challenges, share lessons learned, and interact with peers. Member interest groups include: Alliance for Excellence in School Budgeting, Small Government Forum, Urban Forum, and Utility Forum.

Government Finance Review
Government Finance Review (GFR) is GFOA's bimonthly membership magazine. It publishes articles on the forefront of the public finance profession and the expanding role of the government finance officer.
"I am proud to say that everything I learned about governmental accounting I learned from GFOA by attending the annual conference, reading GFOA’s publications and best practices, networking with colleagues, and talking with staff. Through the implementation of GFOA’s policies, my school district has received GFOA awards, as well as increased our bond rating. I learned to develop my leadership skills through GFOA and eventually became President of my local state association."

—Diane B. Allison, CPA, CGMA, CGFO, CLSBA
Director of Business Services, Ascension Parish School Board, Donaldsonville, Louisiana
We Are In Your Corner

Washington, DC, Representation
GFOA works to engage Congress, the Administration, and GFOA’s membership about federal priority issues, covering all legislative, regulatory, and judicial activity impacting public finance.

State/Provincial Association Communication
Each state/provincial GFOA association assigns at least one representative to serve as GFOA’s liaison with its members in their state or province. Representatives are responsible for keeping GFOA and their state/provincial association aware of one another’s activities in order to help educate their membership. State/provincial representatives meet onsite prior to the start of GFOA’s annual conference to discuss GFOA programs, policies, and major regulatory and legislative developments. This is a joint meeting with the presidents of the state/provincial associations.

Coordination with Other Organizations
GFOA maintains constant dialogue with other issuer organizations in Washington, DC, and leads the Public Finance Network in order to amplify issues of importance to GFOA’s members including public finance, tax, pension and benefits, and banking. GFOA monitors the work of regulatory agencies in Washington, DC, and provides regular feedback on proposed
regulation impacting state and local government finance. This includes the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB). GFOA also monitors the work of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and provides feedback on proposed accounting and financial reporting standards issued by GASB.

Leadership Academy
GFOA holds a week-long leadership program that provides participants with professional and personal development tools through classroom, case study, and peer networking opportunities. Participants are chosen for this program through an application process.

Mentorship Program
GFOA offers a mentorship program for the annual conference, which is open to all first-time annual conference attendee scholarship recipients. Mentees enrolled in the program are matched with experienced GFOA conference attendees, who can share tips and lessons learned on how to get the most out of GFOA’s conference.

Membership
Categories

Voting

GOVERNMENT MEMBER: Practicing public finance professional from a government unit. Each government unit is automatically assigned a specific number of active members based upon its size.

ADDITIONAL: Practicing public finance professional from a government unit above those included in the base membership fee.

Non-Voting

ASSOCIATE: Individuals interested in public finance but practicing in the private sector. Includes employees of accounting and law firms, investment banks, financial institutions, and consulting firms.

FACULTY: Full-time educators from a college or university.

STUDENTS: Full- or part-time students not currently employed.

RETIRED: Retired former active government members.

If your government is already a member of the GFOA, arrange to become an ADDITIONAL ACTIVE member and you will be eligible for full benefits at a reduced rate.
The following GFOA membership fee schedule, as adopted by the Executive Board, took effect April 1, 2009.*

### Cities and Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Base Fee</th>
<th>Additional Memberships</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 4,999</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<tr>
<td>5,000 – 9,999</td>
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<td>170</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>10,000 – 19,999</td>
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<td>190</td>
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<td>20,000 – 29,999</td>
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<td>225</td>
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<tr>
<td>30,000 – 39,999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40,000 – 49,999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 – 74,999</td>
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<td>595</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>75,000 – 99,999</td>
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<td>640</td>
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<td>200,000 – 299,999</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>300,000 – 499,999</td>
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<td>1,305</td>
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<tr>
<td>500,000 – 749,999</td>
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<td>1,775</td>
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<td>750,000 – 999,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 1,000,000</td>
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<td>4,620</td>
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### Retirement Systems

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<th>#</th>
<th>Base Fee</th>
<th>Additional Memberships</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 4,999</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 – 9,999</td>
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<td>10,000 – 24,999</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 – 49,999</td>
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<td>50,000 – 99,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>100,000 – 249,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 250,000</td>
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<td>1,655</td>
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</table>

### Special Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Base Fee</th>
<th>Additional Memberships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 99</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 – 499</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 – 999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000 – 4,999</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 – 9,999</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 – 19,999</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000 – 29,999</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,295</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 30,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,605</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### School Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Enrollment</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Base Fee</th>
<th>Additional Memberships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1,999</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000–4,999</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000–9,999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000–14,999</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,000-29,999</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30,000-49,999</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000-99,999</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,295</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 plus</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,605</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Individual Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State &amp; Province: Population 0 – 1 Million</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State &amp; Province: Population 1 – 5 Million</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State &amp; Province: Population 5 – 10 Million</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State &amp; Province: Population Over 10 Million</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### International

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developed Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate (Private Sector)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*$35 of your membership dues pays for a subscription to Government Finance Review, GFOA’s bimonthly magazine.
Application

TO SUBMIT PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD, visit gfoa.org/joinGFOA.

TO SUBMIT PAYMENT BY CHECK OR PURCHASE ORDER, make check payable to “Government Finance Officers Association”. Send to: GFOA, 203 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2700, Chicago, IL 60601.

PURCHASE ORDERS may also be faxed to 312.977.4806.

Please print or type.

Name ______________________________________________________________

Title ______________________________________________________________

Employer ___________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________

City _______________________________________________________________

State/Province _____________________________________________________

Country __________________________________________________________

Zip/Postal Code ____________________________________________________

Telephone __________________________________________________________

Fax _________________________________________________________________

E-mail (Required) __________________________________________________

Previous Employer __________________________________________________

Questions? E-mail: membership@gfoa.org

Please complete both sides of this application
Payment Information

Please check one:

❑ PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD: Please visit gfoa.org/joinGFOA.

❑ PAYMENT BY CHECK: Payable to “Government Finance Officers Association”
  Send to: GFOA, 203 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2700, Chicago, IL 60601

❑ PAYMENT BY PURCHASE ORDER:
  P.O. No ________________________________________________________________________
  Payable to “Government Finance Officers Association”
  Send to: GFOA, 203 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2700, Chicago, IL 60601 or
  Fax: 312.977.4806

MEMBER TYPE
Full-time students, please include a copy of student identification card and current course schedule.

Please check one:

❑ Government        ❑ Additional        ❑ Student
❑ Associate (Private Sector) ❑ Faculty        ❑ Retired

GOVERNMENTAL UNIT (In the United States or Canada)
Refer to the GFOA Membership Fee Schedule on page 14.

Please check one and give size of unit, as requested:

❑ City: Population _____________________________________________________________
❑ County: Population _________________________________________________________
❑ Special District: Number of Employees ________________________________________
❑ School District: Student Enrollment __________________________________________
❑ State/Province: Population __________________________________________________
❑ Retirement System: Number of Members ________________________________________
❑ Federal

INTERNATIONAL (Outside of the United States or Canada)
Refer to the GFOA Membership Fee Schedule on page 14.

Please check one and give size of unit, as requested:

❑ Developed Country ___________________________________________________________
❑ Developing Country __________________________________________________________
❑ Associate (Private Sector) ___________________________________________________