Popular Annual Financial Reporting Awards Program

*What is the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Awards Program?* The Government Finance Officers Association’s (GFOA) Popular Annual Financial Reporting Awards Program (PAFR Program) has been promoting the preparation of high-quality financial reports since 1991. Hundreds of governments participate in the program each year. Participants include state and local governments of all types (general purpose and special purpose) and sizes.

*What are the benefits of the program?* The PAFR Program actively strives to assist participating governments to achieve the goal of preparing a top-quality popular annual financial report. The popular annual financial report can play an important role in making financial information accessible to ordinary citizens and other interested parties who may be challenged by traditional financial reports. Program participants will have access to technical materials specifically designed to help them comply with program requirements. The government will also profit from a thorough confidential review of its popular annual financial report.

*It’s easy to participate!* Once the popular annual financial report (PAFR) is prepared, submit it along with a completed application. The normal submission deadline is six months following the government’s fiscal year end. Requests for a one-month extension beyond the deadline may be made as a result of various factors (e.g., employee turnover, delay in issuing the comprehensive annual financial report) by e-mailing PAFR@gfoa.org.

*How does the program work?* Governments that participate in the PAFR Program will receive a list of specific comments and suggestions for improvement. Reviews are conducted by volunteers and GFOA professional staff. All reviews are combined and a final vote is determined. If a government’s PAFR wins the award, it will receive public recognition of its achievement, along with a plaque and a press release. Public recognition includes having the name of the government appear on a list of award-winning PAFRs maintained on the GFOA’s website.

*Which governments qualify to participate in the program?* Any state or local government, including, in certain circumstances, funds and departments of governments, may participate in the PAFR Program. The government must also submit its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) to GFOA’s Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program or Canadian Award for Financial Reporting Program. Ordinarily, the PAFR should be published within six months after the government’s fiscal year end.

If you have any questions, please e-mail PAFR@gfoa.org.

Go to www.gfoa.org to download an application and for additional information on the program. A checklist is also available for governments.

*See reverse side for information on volunteer reviewer opportunities.*
Volunteer to Serve as a Reviewer

If you are an accountant, auditor, or academic with experience in governmental accounting and financial reporting, you are invited to become a volunteer reviewer for PAFR Program.

What are the benefits of serving as a volunteer reviewer?
Volunteer reviewers can:
• Become familiar with the appropriate criteria for assessing the quality of popular annual financial reports,
• Receive new and creative ideas from other governments’ popular annual financial reports,
• Get familiar with the latest trends in popular reporting, and
• Achieve professional recognition.

What are the requirements for serving as a reviewer? Candidates to serve as reviewers should possess a solid understanding of governmental accounting and financial reporting, as well as a commitment to making financial information accessible to citizens and other interested parties who may not possess this same level of knowledge.

If you have any questions, please e-mail PAFR@gfoa.org.

Go to www.gfoa.org for information on GFOA membership, products, services, and GFOA’s other awards programs:
• Awards for Excellence in Government Finance
• Canadian Award for Financial Reporting
• Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
• Certificate of Conformance Program for Small Government Annual Financial Reports
• Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

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