

10 Steps

TO GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR GFOA MEMBERSHIP

If you aren't attending GFOA's annual conference in Austin this year—and missing out on the educational sessions, networking events, and opportunities to meet with a diverse group of peers—GFOA still offers many other opportunities to engage with the organization. We encourage all members to:



1 Join one of GFOA's affinity groups. GFOA offers special networking and educational opportunities for members through several member groups, including: the Small Government Forum, the Urban Forum, Utility Finance Forum, Alliance for Excellence in School Budgeting, Women's Public Finance Network, and Black Caucus. Affinity groups hold networking sessions (both virtual and in-person), provide educational content, and offer mentorship.

2 Share your knowledge and experience. GFOA is a volunteer-based organization and relies on member volunteers to write for *GFR*, speak at conferences, serve as trainers, and more.

3 Apply for a standing committee. GFOA has seven standing committees, each made up of 25 members who meet throughout the year to discuss best practices and advise the organization on topic areas that are relevant to public finance. Applications for standing committees are now open through the end of July at gfoa.org/gfoa-standing-committees.

4 Apply for one (or more) of GFOA's award programs. Is your government an example of best practice in action? GFOA's award programs offer members opportunities to be recognized for your achievements. More than 4,500 governments participate in GFOA award programs—like the Award for Excellence in Public Finance. This award, which is open to both public- and private-sector members, recognizes governments for exemplary implementation of a GFOA best practice or a creative solution to a common problem. Applications are being accepted through the end of July at gfoa.org/award-for-excellence.

5 Volunteer to be an award reviewer. GFOA's award programs rely on volunteers to submit peer feedback for applicants. Would you like to get more exposure to financial reports and budget documents? Consider signing up to review documents and help provide critical feedback to award applicants as they work to improve.

6 Join one (or more) of GFOA's online communities. Do you have a question for other finance officers, or are you looking for examples of how other governments have solved common problems? Consider joining and staying active in one of our many online communities.

7 Become a CPFO. GFOA's recently launched certification program provides access to a library of GFOA resources and tests your knowledge in seven key areas of public finance.

8 Get others in your government to join. GFOA's membership structure provides a small number of individual memberships based on the size of your government, but additional memberships only cost \$150 per person. Most member governments are not taking advantage of this option and missing out on the opportunity to include non-senior level staff in accessing member benefits.

9 Take the next big step in your career or look to recruit a GFOA member to your organization. Did you know that GFOA's jobs board is the most visited page on the GFOA website? In addition to job listings, you can find resume guides, interview tips, and resources to help in your job search.

10 Take advantage of GFOA's first-time scholarship for the 2023 Conference in Portland. Soon we'll start planning the 2023 conference, to be held May 21-24 in Portland, Oregon. If you haven't been to a GFOA conference yet, we offer free registration through our first-time conference attendees scholarship program.

To make it easier to find volunteer opportunities through GFOA, the website has a listing of possibilities available at gfoa.org/volunteer. For a complete list of member benefits, please visit gfoa.org/member-benefits.