



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

November 15–20, 2026
College of Charleston
Charleston, SC

Government Finance Officers Association
gfoa.org/leadership-academy



TAKING YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Enhance your leadership skills and advance your career.

The GFOA Leadership Academy at the College of Charleston provides senior public and government finance professionals an opportunity to bolster their leadership and management skills to better serve their communities.

Through sessions and self-assessments, participants will:

- › Optimize their technical knowledge and abilities to enhance leadership skills
- › Gain new ideas to improve their organizations and communities
- › Be more prepared to lead teams, steer organization vision, and manage multiple stakeholders
- › Hone their abilities to handle difficult discussions, politically complex initiatives, and challenging executive roles
- › Strengthen their networks through new connections with speakers and peer participants

The week-long Leadership Academy offers participants an opportunity to step away from day-to-day demands and technical training and instead focus on leadership development.

“ I would recommend the Leadership Academy to any aspiring leaders in GFOA. It isn't often one has the opportunity to learn from some of the greatest leaders in our field. **”**

– Barbara Whitehorn,
Chief Financial Officer,
City of Asheville, NC



POWER-PACKED AGENDA

From the opening reception and dinner to the closing lunch, the week features a mix of sessions designed to spur individual learning, develop organizational insights, and nurture development of leadership skills. Sessions are intended to balance the role of the finance professional in state and local government with key trends in leadership for the public sector. Representative sessions include:

- › Self-assessments and other behavioral insights designed to help participants understand how they work—and how they can best contribute to their organizations
- › Leadership skills for the 21st century
- › Characteristics of great organizations
- › You and your organization
- › Values of public service
- › Case study preparation and presentations
- › Leadership discussions and reflections, and more

“ The smaller class size allowed for the group to bond and create a lifelong professional support community. **”**

– Amanda Six,
Director of Budget and
Financial Reporting,
Hanover County
Public Schools, VA



ABOUT GFOA

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) promotes excellence in state and local government financial management. It provides best practice guidance, technical resources, leadership, professional development and networking opportunities, award programs, and advisory services for more than 23,000 members and the governments they represent.

For more on GFOA, visit gfoa.org.

