

# Better Together



**Christopher P. Morrill**  
Executive Director/CEO

**C**ollaboration is a key value for GFOA. It helps shape internal policy decisions and informs our guidance for members. It is the basis of GFOA's Financial Foundations Framework, which requires that finance officers work with their peers throughout government to develop more effective solutions to pressing challenges.

As an organization, GFOA is also stronger when it works with its peers. For years, GFOA has led the Public Finance Network, a consortium of associations representing local governments and other municipal bond issuers in Washington, D.C. We also rely on the strong relationships we have with our state, provincial, regional, and international associations, routinely working together to provide educational content, identify speakers for conferences, and get the word out about industry events like GFOA's annual conference.

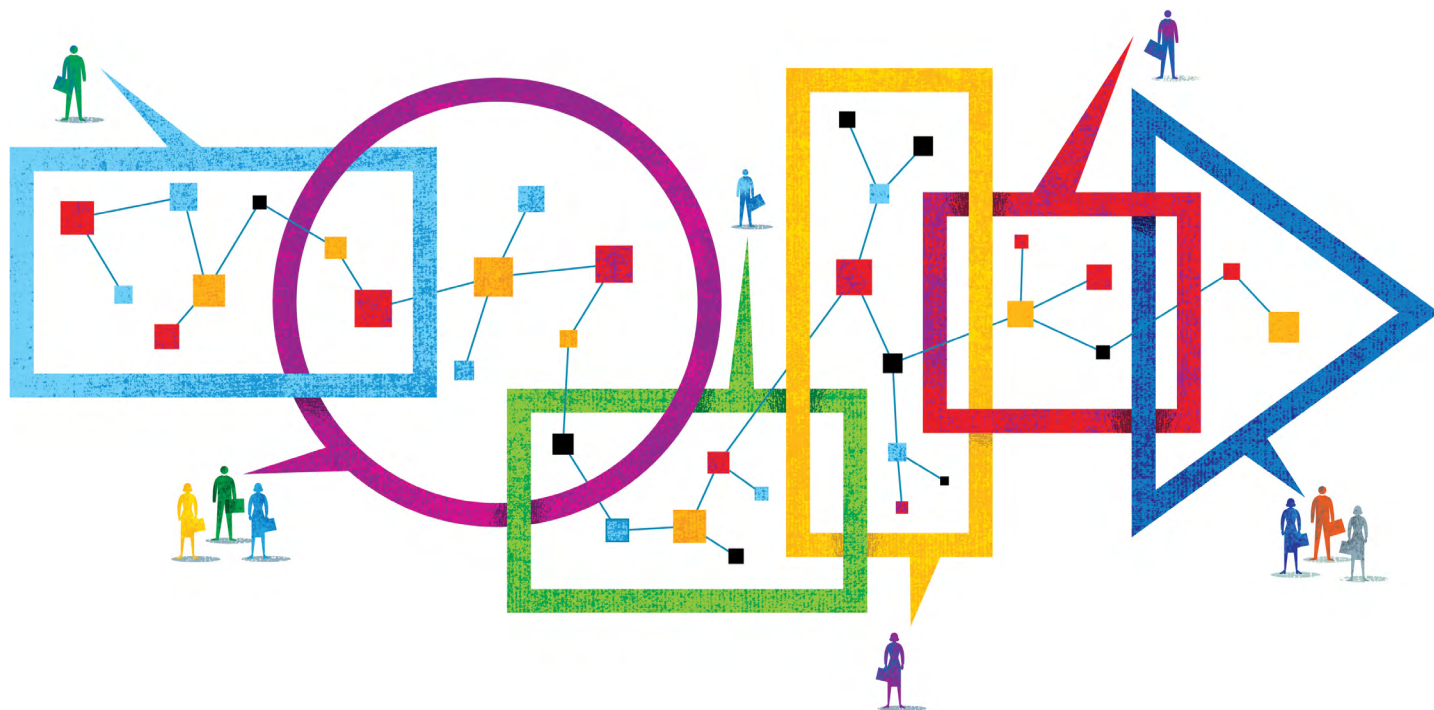
Over the past year, GFOA has focused on broadening those connections by entering into strategic partnership agreements with several organizations outside of public finance industry. Each alliance brings unique benefits to GFOA members and helps GFOA work toward its mission of advancing excellence in public finance to build thriving communities. Our current strategic partners are:

- **National Institute for Governmental Purchasing (NIGP).** NIGP provides certification, training, best practice guidance, and networking opportunities to the public procurement profession in the United States and Canada. Staff for the two organizations have been working on coordinating resources,

Each alliance brings unique benefits to GFOA members and helps GFOA work toward its mission of advancing excellence in public finance to build thriving communities.

developing joint training opportunities, and planning content for annual conferences. GFOA and NIGP will also be identifying opportunities to improve finance and procurement collaboration within local government. This strategic partnership also provides GFOA members with discounted rates at NIGP training events on contract management, construction, sourcing and solicitation, and more.

- **Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL).** ELGL's mission is to engage the brightest minds in local government by providing timely and relevant podcasts, blogs, webinars, social media, learning cohorts, and conference gatherings, all of which foster authentic and meaningful connections that are grounded in equity and inclusion. GFOA is working with ELGL to provide the PAFR Fellowship program, which connects local governments with graduate students to help create popular financial reports.



- **Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA).** IPWEA is an association of more than 4,750 professional members who deliver public works and engineering services to communities in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. As part of our agreement, IPWEA now offers its online Professional Certificate in Asset Management Planning at to GFOA members at IPWEA member rates.
- **National FORUM for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA).** NFBPA is the principal and most progressive organization dedicated to the advancement of black public leadership in local and state governments. GFOA and NFBPA have agreed to joint marketing of events, cross collaboration of resources for conference events, and continued communication as both organizations work to promote diversity in the public finance profession.

- **Local Government Hispanic Network (LGHN).** LGHN encourages professional excellence among Hispanic/Latino local government administrators. GFOA works with the network to promote diversity in the public finance profession through collaboration in learning and conference events.
- **National Civic League (NCL).** NCL works to inspire, support, and celebrate civic engagement. GFOA and NCL collaborate on various projects, and NCL resources have been instrumental in helping shape GFOA recommendations and resources related to public participation in budgeting. GFOA staff serves on a panel to revise NCL's model city charter, helping with additional emphasis on long-term financial planning. One of the benefits GFOA members receive from this partnership is complimentary access to NCL's quarterly publication, the *National Civic Review*.

- **ProbabilityManagement.org.** ProbabilityManagement.org is a non-profit dedicated to helping organizations work with uncertainty, using tools, standards, applications, and training. GFOA and ProbabilityManagement.org have worked together on numerous research projects, and ProbabilityManagement.org provides ongoing guidance to GFOA research staff as well as assisting with developing our approach to conducting risk-based reserve assessments.

GFOA also works with other organizations and is developing other partnerships to advance excellence in public finance and to increase the benefits available to GFOA members. We urge you to find out more about GFOA's strategic partners and the benefits available to GFOA members at [gfoa.org/strategic-partners](https://gfoa.org/strategic-partners).

Sincerely,

*Chris*