

## MEMBERSHIP

# Discover 5 GFOA Membership Benefits

BY NATALIE LAUDADIO

GFOA has a lot to offer. Take a moment to explore these five key benefits, opportunities, and resources.

**1** **Networking can be difficult, but GFOA is here to help.** Our affinity groups make it easy to connect with your peers in a number of areas: the Alliance for Smarter School Spending, Black Caucus, Community for Canadian Issues, LGBTQIA+ Caucus, Small Government Forum, Urban Forum, Utility Finance Forum, Women's Public Finance Network, and Young Professionals Network. We also provide virtual networking events, webinars, and social events at GFOA's annual conference.

*"I love the leadership role that I have with GFOA's Women's Public Finance Network. It gave me the opportunity to network and meet new people. GFOA inspires me to get out of my comfort zone."*



**Carla Ann Walker-Alston**, budget manager, Sumter County Government, South Carolina; GFOA member for 11 years

**2** **Enroll in GFOA's Certified Public Finance Officers (CPFO) program.** The CPFO program is designed to prepare individuals for leadership positions in state and local governments by enhancing fundamental skills and increasing your knowledge about best practices and standards in public finance.

*"A membership in GFOA provides government finance professionals with an abundance of benefits such as professional development, access to industry best practices and publications, certification programs such as CPFO, and advocacy to its members."*



**Sherwin Pestka**, CPFO, treasurer, Ada County Highway District, Idaho; GFOA member for 15+ years

**3** **Keep yourself up to date on a wide range of public finance topics through GFOA's weekly newsletter.** It summarizes trends and events in the public finance field, provides information on association news and legislative and regulatory issues, and lists upcoming educational events such as the GFOA's annual conference and new publications. It also links you to job openings.

*"A few things I highly value about GFOA are the content (resources, education), the community (staff, leadership, and members), and the organization's commitment to the industry through education, advocacy, and conferences."*



**Erika Coombs**, senior vice president, Piper Sandler & Co; GFOA member for ten years

**4** **Participate in GFOA's online member communities.** GFOA's General Forum and American Rescue Plan Act Forum are open to active government members and allow members to post questions, reply to posts, network with other members, share documents, and more. GFOA's affinity groups also have online communities for their group members.

*"GFOA forums have provided me invaluable insights into best practices, emerging trends, and innovative solutions within government finance, helping me stay ahead in my field."*



**Maggie Lam**, accounting manager, City of Avondale, Arizona; GFOA member for four years

**5** **Apply to be a member of one of GFOA's standing committees.** GFOA's six standing committees—Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting; Governmental Budgeting and Fiscal Policy; Governmental Debt Management; Economic Development and Capital Planning; Retirement and Benefits Administration; and Treasury and Investment Management—provide direction for GFOA's services by formulating new policies and raising professional standards via best practices. GFOA is currently accepting applications for all committees through July 31, 2024. Applications are available at [gfoa.org/committee-application](https://gfoa.org/committee-application).

*"As an advisor of the Committee on Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting, I have had the opportunity to engage with prominent financial leaders from across the nation, exchanging ideas and addressing pressing accounting challenges. GFOA's proactive engagement with universities has facilitated a collaborative partnership, enabling fruitful exchanges that benefit both academia and the broader public finance community."*



**Irfan Bora**, director, Master's in Governmental Accounting Program, Rutgers University, New Jersey; GFOA member for 23 years

You can find out more about GFOA membership benefits at [gfoa.org/member-benefits](https://gfoa.org/member-benefits).

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