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Executive Director/CEO

Saying Goodbye to 2023 and Wishing You a Happy 2024

For many GFOA staff members, November marked the point when we could start officially looking forward to 2024.

On November 3, we started taking registrations for our 2024 Orlando Annual Conference. While preparations for sessions, event spaces, technology, promotions, and logistics began months ago, now we find it hard not to get excited. Early registration numbers are strong, and we're expecting one of the largest GFOA conferences ever. Not only is Orlando, Florida, a destination city with many attractions beyond the convention center, but the conference itself will also feature case studies from innovative and leading governments, sessions led by leading practitioners, updates on current issues, can't-miss networking events, access to hundreds of exhibitors, and thought-provoking keynote speakers. We look forward to letting you know about all our plans in the months to come.

And there are other reasons why 2024 will be an important year for GFOA. We're making plans to update our membership

model that will increase the size of GFOA and open the association up to finance professionals throughout a member organization. Our research shows us that in many organizations, only the most senior positions within the finance office hold official memberships. While many benefits of GFOA membership (like *GFR*) can be shared, others—like access to our GFOA communities—cannot. We expect this change to make GFOA's network bigger, and it will also provide opportunities for professionals much earlier in their careers to benefit from education, networking, mentorship, and other resources from GFOA.

Our plans for 2024 are rooted in a successful 2023, when we were once again able to increase both our individual and organization memberships. GFOA award program participation remains strong, registration for both in-person and virtual learning opportunities continues to grow—capped by the 5,000 individuals who signed up for our mid-December GAAP Update—and engagement in GFOA's affinity groups and online communities

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is at an all-time high. And GFOA has made other accomplishments over the past year in each of our major program areas:

- Leading our peer organizations in advocating for local governments on infrastructure funding and financial data transparency.
- Completing the rollout of our awards management system for the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
- Completing our revised CPFO program with all seven tests now available.
- Hosting more than 5,600 delegates and exhibitors in Portland for our 2023 annual conference.



- Providing consulting services to more than 65 governments to assist with areas including ERP readiness, system selection, and implementation; business process improvement; and financial policy development.
- Returning to a full schedule of in-person training events, which now feature regular offerings in our upgraded training facility in Chicago.
- Launching the LGBTQIA+ Caucus.
- Working with our partners at the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) to provide educational sessions that improve collaboration with our finance peers in the fire service.
- Producing research reports that highlight decision architecture, budgeting for equity, reserve policies, public engagement, and fiscal fluency.
- Publishing *Accounting for Capital Assets*. GFOA's most recent publication is also available for sale as an e-book on the Amazon and Apple platforms.

We're also thankful to have so many dedicated and engaged volunteers who provide guidance on standing committees, participate in award reviews and research projects, and serve as instructors, authors, mentors, and leaders for this organization. If you are interested in getting more involved with GFOA, please visit [GFOA.org/volunteer](https://gfoa.org/volunteer) for a listing of current volunteer opportunities. If you're interested in joining GFOA's executive board, we'll be accepting applications for the 2024 to 2026 board term through February 2 at gfoa.org/executive-board-application.

Thank you again for the service you provide to GFOA and to your community. We look forward to working with you in pursuit of our shared mission to advance excellence in public finance.

Happy holidays and happy new year,

Chris



Registration is now open for our 2024 Annual Conference in Orlando. Register by January 26 to save:

gfoa.org/conference



Get involved! View our current volunteer opportunities:

gfoa.org/volunteer