



# Appreciating the Big Wins Around Us

Christopher P. Morrill | Executive Director/CEO

**W**ith the close of another year, it's easy to get lost in routines. Vendor payments are made, payroll is processed, budgets are approved, bonds are issued, audits are completed, and, for the most part, making headlines is avoided. It all goes on in the background, and calling attention to the work means that something went wrong. But it's important to highlight achievements and recognize both individuals and their organizations for making often complex work look routine, and for accomplishing major milestones, meeting important goals, innovating, or building on excellence.

This year, we launched GFOA's Recognition for Outstanding Public Service program to spotlight some of our many members who do exceptional work, often behind the scenes. This program honors individuals for their dedication to the profession, their colleagues, their organizations, and

their communities. GFOA's membership network includes many exemplary public servants who support others, lead organizations through both good times and bad, and make a positive impact on those they serve.

Over the past few months, we have been recognizing a group of 33 award winning, inspiring, and remarkable individuals with a lot to celebrate—finance officers known for their consistency, longevity, and reliability, but also recognized by their peers as “transformative leaders,” “financial geniuses,” “committed mentors,” “strategic visionaries,” “ultimate civil servants,” “selfless volunteers,” and “exceptional role models.” Get inspired by reading about some of these nominees on page 9, and to nominate those who have meant the most to you in your career, or those who work day in and out to make a difference in their communities, please visit [gfoa.org/publicservice](https://gfoa.org/publicservice). Applications for 2025 are available now and will be accepted through the end of March 2025.

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GFOA also takes a lot of pride in working with members to achieve our mission of advancing excellence in public finance to build thriving communities. We understand that GFOA's success is all about ways we can help bring finance professionals together to share ideas, collaborate, learn, and push each other to generate results for their community. This issue of *GFR* also highlights seven award-winning governments for their achievements. They represent what is possible when finance professionals implement best practices, work together, and focus on serving their communities. Each case study highlights actions that can be replicated in other governments across the United States and Canada.

As we look forward to 2025, I want to ask for your help in making sure that your story is told so we can all learn from your experience. Please think

about nominating your peers for GFOA's Recognition for Outstanding Public Service program or applying for GFOA's Award for Excellence, which is also open now at [gfoa.org/award-for-excellence](https://gfoa.org/award-for-excellence).

We are always here to engage with those who are committed to our mission. To contribute your subject matter expertise and experience to help your fellow finance officers, please consider volunteering as an instructor, conference speaker, mentor, reviewer, or research advisor—for more information, visit [gfoa.org/volunteer](https://gfoa.org/volunteer). Also, if you're interested in serving on GFOA's executive board, applications will be accepted through February 7, 2025, at [gfoa.org/executive-board-application](https://gfoa.org/executive-board-application).

Throughout my 25+ years with GFOA, both as an engaged member and now as CEO, I've been amazed at the achievements, success stories, and

outcomes that are possible when smart people get together and work toward a common goal. Congratulations to everyone on their successes in 2024, and I look forward to working with a new group of GFOA members on our important work of building thriving communities in 2025. 🎉

Sincerely,

*Chris*

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View the recipients of GFOA's 2024 Recognition for Outstanding Public Service  
[gfoa.org/publicservice](https://gfoa.org/publicservice)

View this year's winners and learn more about applying for GFOA's Award for Excellence.  
[gfoa.org/award-for-excellence](https://gfoa.org/award-for-excellence)

Find out how to get more involved with GFOA.  
[gfoa.org/volunteer](https://gfoa.org/volunteer)