



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

August 23–28, 2026
GFOA Training Center
Chicago, IL

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 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

STANDOUT SPEAKERS

Leadership Academy speakers will share their perspectives on the roles and responsibilities of state and local government officials in a complex and rapidly changing world. They will discuss career insights gleaned from research and hands-on leadership experience. The faculty includes:



Erika Joseph Bergen
Founder, EJB Consulting



Ben Fauske
Founder, RISE Leadership



Dr. Ulrich Jensen
Associate Professor, School of Public
Affairs, Arizona State University



Shayne Kavanagh
Senior Research Manager, Government
Finance Officers Association



Chris Morrill
Executive Director, Government
Finance Officers Association



Kim Nelson
Professor of Public Administration &
Government, University of North Carolina



Robert O'Neill
Executive in Residence, Joseph P. Riley, Jr.
Center for Livable Communities



REGISTER NOW

The Leadership Academy is limited
to 45 participants. To apply to attend,
visit gfoa.org/leadership-academy



Training Location

The Leadership Academy's location at GFOA's Training Center located in the GFOA Chicago Office in the heart of Chicago's Central Business District. The LEED Platinum building is home to the Loop Transportation Center, with direct access to CTA trains. The CTA System allows riders to catch lines directly to both O'Hare and Midway airports without exposure to weather.



Who Should Attend?

- › Finance Directors
- › Assistant Finance Directors
- › Treasurers
- › Department Managers or Directors
- › Assistant City Managers
- › City Managers



CPE Credits

Attendees can earn 30 CPE credits through participation. GFOA is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. State boards of accountancy have final authority on the acceptance of individual courses for CPE credit. NASBAregistry.org



Cost

Tuition of \$2,500 includes all speaker and working sessions, weekday lunches, and several dinners and receptions. It does not include the cost of travel or lodging.



Lodging

The Hyatt Place – River North is offering participants a confirmed preferential rate of \$202 per night plus taxes and fees. Located a short walk from the GFOA Training Center, in downtown Chicago, the hotel offers complimentary WiFi, hot breakfast, and access to the fitness center.



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 25,000 members and the governments they represent.

For more on GFOA, visit gfoa.org.



To apply for the Leadership Academy at GFOA's Training Center in Chicago, visit gfoa.org/leadership-academy.

“ It was an honor to be selected to attend the GFOA Leadership Academy. The facilitators were top notch, topics for discussion were engaging, and my classmates turned into friends.

– Mallory Stribling, Budget Services Manager,
County of Fauquier, VA

