

MEMBERSHIP

Powering Leadership

GFOA's new era of mentorship and professional growth

BY KATIE LITTLE

GFOA continues to invest in member engagement and professional development with two opportunities being launched this year: expanded affinity group leadership roles and a new GFOA-wide mentorship program.

Affinity group leadership opportunities

In July, GFOA will open applications for new leadership roles across our nine affinity groups: the Black Caucus, Women's Public Finance Network, LGBTQIA+ Caucus, Utility Finance Forum, Urban Forum, Small Government Forum, Young Professionals Network, Community for Canadian Issues, and the Alliance for Smarter School Spending.

These opportunities are part of GFOA's transition to a new affinity group charter framework, designed to create a more consistent, sustainable, and scalable model for member engagement.

Members selected for leadership will play an important role in shaping programming, fostering peer connections, and helping guide the strategic direction of their groups.

Most groups will be recruiting for vice chair and advisory group roles, offering flexible ways for members to contribute based on their experience and availability. The leadership model emphasizes strategic input and collaboration, with GFOA staff supporting day-to-day operations.

The application timeline is as follows:

- Applications open: July 2026
- Selections announced: August 2026
- Orientation: September 2026


Members who are interested in learning more about affinity groups and upcoming opportunities can visit gfoa.org/gfoa-groups; also, look for an announcement about applications opening from GFOA this summer.

New GFOA mentorship program

As part of GFOA's 2026 Strategic Initiatives, GFOA is developing a broader, more formal mentorship program that will serve all affinity groups and GFOA members, building on lessons learned from prior programs such as Women's Public Finance Network and peer organizations.

The program is designed as a structured, short-term experience that pairs mentors and mentees for a combination of guided one-on-one conversations and GFOA-led professional development sessions over 10 weeks, starting in fall 2026. Participants will engage in a series of virtual programs covering topics such as financial foundations, ethics, leadership competencies, and career growth, while also building meaningful connections across the GFOA community.

Expanding mentorship beyond individual affinity groups and smaller initiatives allows the program to create a more consistent and inclusive experience—opening the door for members at all career stages to participate, learn, and connect.

Stay tuned to your GFOA communications for announcements on when applications open this summer to participate as either a mentee or a mentor in this exciting new program. 



“As GFOA expands mentorship opportunities across the

organization, it's exciting to see this work grow—creating even more pathways for members to connect, learn, and support each other at every stage of their careers.”

SHEILA BRIESCH, CPFO
CO-CHAIR MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE,
WOMEN'S PUBLIC FINANCE NETWORK

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