



# Awards for Excellence

IN GOVERNMENT FINANCE

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Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Awards for Excellence in Government Finance recognize innovative programs and contributions to the practice of government finance that exemplify outstanding financial management. The awards stress practical, documented work that offers leadership to the profession and promotes improved public finance.

## 2019 Winner for Exceptionally Well Implemented GFOA Best Practice:



**CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**  
ONLINE CALCULATOR FOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FEES

As part of a fee study, the City of Raleigh created its Development Services User Fee Policy to encompass all phases of the development process, from land permitting through construction. When the study revealed that more transparency was needed to help developers estimate permitting fees based on project size, type, and location, staff from the city's finance and information technology departments responded by creating comprehensive fee calculators to better estimate the permit fees associated with their projects.

The city worked with the building community throughout the study as it considered both new fees and structural changes to existing fees. They ultimately created five fee calculators that developers can use to estimate approximately 75% of the required permit fees associated with project development in the City of Raleigh. The fees are:

- Building and trade permits that are based on occupancy type, size, and construction valuation of the proposed project.
- Right-of-way occupancy permit fees based on the type, location, length, and duration of proposed obstructions to city sidewalks and streets.
- Stormwater fees collected for control permits and device replacement.
- Thoroughfare facility fees, based on the land use impact of a project, that support street improvement projects.
- Open space facility fees, also based on land use impact, that support the acquisition of open space and parks projects.



**GFOA BEST PRACTICE:**  
[Establishing Government Charges and Fees](#)

GFOA supports charges and fees as a way to help finance governmental goods and services and recommends that governments adopt formal policies and calculate the full cost of providing a service as a basis for setting the charge or fee.