

**OHIO
GFOA** **E-NEWS UPDATE**

Government Finance Officers Association



President's Message

By: Angel Mumma, Chief Financial Officer, COTA



Welcome to the Ohio GFOA! Spring has finally arrived and with longer days and more sunshine coupled with the vaccine distribution efforts, I hope everyone is feeling a renewed sense energy after a difficult and trying year.

We are excited to share that we will be holding our 34th annual conference in a “hybrid” format. For those that are able to join us in Cincinnati in person in September, we are looking forward to seeing you! And for the virtual attendees, you will still be able to earn the same amount of CPE credits as in-person attendees. Recognizing the social problems facing our country, we are placing an emphasis on equity, diversity, and inclusion as well as implicit biases in this year’s conference. Our welcome reception will be held at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, offering attendees the ability to network and enjoy each other’s company while celebrating “freedom’s heroes, from the Underground Railroad to contemporary times”.

In addition to the conference, we hope you take advantage of the many other resources the Ohio GFOA offers to its members.

Yours in service,



Ohio GFOA Upcoming Webinars

"Financial Reporting, Audit, and Internal Control Basics"

Wednesday, April 14th | 1:00-2:30 PM

Participants will earn 1.8 hours of CPE credit.

[Register here](#)

"Tell the Story of Your Finances Better: Meeting New Demand for Data and Earn Distinction"

Sponsored by: OpenGov

Thursday, April 29th | 12:00-1:00 PM

Participants will earn 1.2 hours of CPE credit.

[Register here](#)



Apply to the WPFN Mentorship Program

GFOA's Women's Public Finance Network's (WPFN) mentorship program seeks to strengthen and build the network of finance professionals by connecting members so that they can gain skills and confidence needed to excel in the public finance industry.

[Learn more](#). The deadline to apply is April 5.

STAR Ohio: A Sound Investment Option for Local Governments

By: Robert Sprague, Ohio Treasurer of State



Undoubtedly, the past year has taught us countless lessons. When it comes to public finance, crises show us just how important sound investments are. Our office has spent much of the year focused on finding ways we can support local governments to keep them, and Ohio as a whole, on solid financial footing.

One of the most important tools our office provides to municipalities and other local government entities is the State Treasury Asset Reserve (STAR) of Ohio. STAR Ohio is an investment pool that allows government subdivisions to invest in high-grade, short-term securities while offering safety, penalty-free liquidity, and comparatively higher yields.

[Read more...](#)

Open Government is Shining in Ohio

By: Keith Faber, Ohio Auditor of State

This time last year we were sending our employees home with plans to work remotely with no end date in sight. There were many every day operations that our local government partners, schools, small businesses, and big businesses alike were all figuring out how to manage from home. Virtually, we worked together to ensure items like



open meetings were addressed as we were thrown into the unknown future. Special thanks to the members of the Ohio General Assembly for working with us to allow for virtual public meetings during the COVID emergency.

Fast forward 365 days.

We can finally see a light at the end of the COVID tunnel and we are able to recognize the importance of maintaining open government operations and the hard work local governments put in throughout the pandemic to prioritize government transparency.

[Read more...](#)

After a long year of virtual events, Ohio GFOA is excited to be back in-person for its 34th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting. We understand that some may not be ready to participate at

a live event, therefore, we are offering a hybrid option. One session, per hour, will be live-streamed, via the conference mobile app. Furthermore, all of the sessions will be recorded and added to Ohio GFOA's online CE library, following the conference. Accreditation will be given for all options. Further details and registration will become available in early May.

Arriving early to the conference? Join us on Tuesday, September 21, from 8-9 p.m., for a conference kick-off social hour – free of charge.

The Welcome Reception will be held at the [National Underground Railroad Freedom Center](#), in the Freedom Heroes Gallery, which includes the Eternal Flame Terrace overlooking the Ohio River, on Wednesday, September 22, from 6-9 p.m. Tour the “From Slavery to Freedom” and “Modern Slavery Today” exhibits at your leisure.

Reserve Your Room Today! The deadline to receive the Ohio GFOA discount rate of \$175/night, plus applicable tax, is August 31, 2021. Requests received after this date will be accepted based on room and rate availability. Click [here](#) to book your online reservation.



GFOA Launches "End the Acronym" Initiative

Effective immediately, GFOA is asking all industry affiliates to stop using the four-letter acronym commonly associated with the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This recommendation is the result of increasing professional awareness that the acronym, when pronounced aloud, sounds the same as a derogatory term historically used in other parts of the world. Most concerning, South Africa where this term has ties to Apartheid and is used as a racial slur towards Black South Africans.

[Learn more...](#)



On-line Resources - They Just Keep Coming!

Check out some of the new resources available on the Commission's website.

[Conflicts of Interest: What Should I Know?](#)

A brief overview of conflict of interest issues under the Ohio Ethics Law.

[Representation Fact Sheet](#)

Guidance regarding rendering services on matters before public entities.

[Township Trustees Serving as Volunteer Firefighters](#)

Guidance for township trustees who wish to serve as township firefighters.

[When is a Gift a Donation?](#)

Guidance for the public and private sectors regarding donations to public entities.

[The Ohio Ethics Law 101: The Ethics Toolkit for Public School Districts](#)

An outline of the Ethics Law for officials and employees who work for or serve public school districts in Ohio.

[Financial Disclosure Statements FAQ Booklet](#)

The most commonly asked questions on how to complete the financial disclosure form and other helpful information.

[New E-Course: Financial Disclosure Statements 101](#)

This e-course provides a helpful overview on the who, what, why, when, and how of completing a financial disclosure statement. The course walks through the Ethics Commission's online filing system question-by-question and provides numerous additional resources to assist filers in fulfilling financial disclosure requirements.



Ohio GFOA 2021 Award and Scholarship Opportunities

Do you know someone who deserves recognition?

Nominate them for an [Ohio GFOA Award](#).

Apply for an [Ohio GFOA Scholarship](#).

Deadline: **Monday, July 12, 2021**



Welcome New Members

We are glad you chose to become a member and feel certain you will benefit from this affiliation. For a complete list of new members, click [here](#).



Recognition

Congratulations to recent Distinguished Budget Presentation award winners through December 31, 2020. Click [here](#) to view the list of winners along with their award-winning documents.



New CPFO Annual Reporting Information

New in 2021, all Certified Public Finance Officers (CPFOs) will move to an annual reporting process. The updated requirements include earning fifteen CPEs and completing three GFOA Engagement Credits (EC) every year. The EC component recognizes CPFO's volunteerism and dedication to the public finance field.

[Learn more...](#)



GFOA Resources

GFOA updates their Coronavirus Resource Center daily with helpful information to guide GFOA members through the coronavirus pandemic. Click [here](#) for more information.



GFOA continues to add resources to our Fiscal First Aid Resource Center to guide governments through financial stress. Click [here](#) for more information.

Ohio Water Development Authority Refinance Loan Program

Based on the passage of HB 264 by the 133rd general assembly, the Ohio Water Development Authority has created a refinance loan program. Through this program, OWDA can refinance the debt for drinking water, wastewater, and storm water projects. Existing loans thru the Fresh Water Program, Water Pollution Control Loan Program, and the Drinking Water Assistance Fund Program are not eligible for this program.

[Read more...](#)

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"Shared Knowledge for Effective Government"

is The Government Finance Officers Association's Mission Statement. By Promoting the Exchange of Information Among Finance Officers of all Local Governments, Ohio GFOA works to Meet the Challenges of the Ever-Evolving Profession of Government Finance and Fosters Increase Cooperation Among Governments and Private Financial Institutions.
