

National Certification Support Subcommittee Proposal

I would like to propose the creation of a new subcommittee to be organized under the Program and Professional Development Committee. The “National Certification Support Subcommittee” would seek to provide support for members seeking AGA’s Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) or GFOA’s Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) programs. Increasing the number of state employees completing these nationally-recognized programs helps work toward the Governor’s strategic goal to develop a skilled workforce to meet current and future needs across the industry spectrum. Increasing these certifications also helps achieve a key strategy of the Accounting Workgroup of DOAS’s Workforce Strategies Initiative to provide and fund work related professional development including education, certifications, and degree programs. Finally, this subcommittee would help FMC further organizational goals of promoting and encouraging efficient fiscal management in the governmental operation to the State of Georgia; promoting increased knowledge in governmental financial procedures and practices through sponsorship of training seminars, meetings, publications, scholarship programs; and providing opportunities for the interchange of ideas, methods and techniques affecting governmental fiscal management.

The purposes of this subcommittee would be to:

- Promote the CGFM and CPFO certifications as valuable professional development opportunities for state government finance professionals;
- Provide a support network to members seeking the certifications;
- Identify CGFM and CPFO certification holders to serve as mentors for members seeking these certifications;
- Work with state government finance managers to identify potential candidates to seek these certifications.

This subcommittee could hold brief meetings after regular business meetings, as well as ad hoc meetings at the subcommittee’s discretion. Group meetings could allow for discussion around specific tips and advice for certification preparation, as well as pairing mentors and mentees. The subcommittee can also seek to collaborate with other local associations like the Atlanta Chapter of the AGA or the Georgia Government Finance Officers’ Association to identify resources and support members. The Program and Professional Development, Dave Lakly, can assist with organizing the group, identify a subcommittee chair, and continue to support that subcommittee chair.

From AGA

Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®) is a professional certification awarded by AGA, demonstrating competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.

CGFM is a respected credential that recognizes the specialized knowledge and experience needed to be an effective government financial manager.

Being a CGFM allows you to expand your career opportunities and distinguishes you from others in your field.

To earn the CGFM, you must fill out an online application and meet the following requirements:

- Ethics — read and agree to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics
- Education — have a bachelor's degree in any subject area from an accredited U.S. college or university
- Examinations — pass three comprehensive CGFM examinations
- Experience — have at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management

<https://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm>

From GFOA

GFOA's Certified Public Finance Officers (CPFO) program is designed to prepare individuals for leadership positions in state and local governments by enhancing fundamental skills and increasing knowledge of best practices and standards in public finance. Individuals will be equipped to participate in decision-making efforts related to their government and community and lead projects and professionals in a substantive and significant manner.

The CPFO program consists of seven exams designed to verify knowledge in the major disciplines of government finance.

The Accounting, Debt, Planning & Budgeting, and Treasury exams are each composed of 100 multiple-choice items. The Compensation, Procurement, and Risk Assessment exams are 75 items each. A multiple-choice item consists of a stem, which poses a problem, and four possible answers. Only one answer is correct or best. For the CPFO certification exams, each item has four possible choices and is worth one point.

Examinees must answer a minimum of 80% of items correctly to receive a passing score.

<https://www.gfoa.org/cpfo>