

GFOA International Conference Sessions – June 9 to 12, 2024

SUN

9 JUN

2:40 PM-3:30 PM ET

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

Rethinking Financial Reporting

GFOA knows government finance professionals face substantial opportunity costs with their time. Time spent on general purpose external financial reports is time not spent on other forms of decision support and public engagement. With this in mind, GFOA is rethinking financial reporting. This research initiative will examine whether lengthy, technical financial reports published many months in arrears are the most effective way to build trust with constituents and if producing these reports is a good use of the finance officer's time, particularly if they are not providing accountability to the public. Come to this session to learn more about the research and weigh in on the benefits of traditional financial reporting.

SUN

9 JUN

3:50 PM-5:05 PM ET

ERP SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

2024 Cybersecurity Update

The pace of technology innovation seems to be outpaced only by growth of risks that the same technology can expose an organization to. As we all witnessed over the past year, the development of artificial intelligence (AI) has had a significant impact on public finance, and with that raised the threat of more sophisticated threats. Speakers will provide an overview of the latest cybersecurity threats, including the legal, internal control, and fraud challenges that come with AI's ability to emulate voices, writing styles, and more. Attend this session to understand counter measures and essential practices to mitigate current risks and better prepare for what comes next.

MON
10 JUN
10:30 AM-12:10 PM
ET

BUDGETING AND FORECASTING, LEADERSHIP, ETHICS, AND TRUST

On the Campaign Trail: How to Navigate the Politics of Budgeting

Budgeting is hard work, and when politics is thrown into the mix, it's even tougher. Most budget professionals are adept at the technical aspects of budgeting—developing revenue forecasts, counting positions, and estimating spending, but navigating the political landscape is something that many finance professionals try to avoid, usually unsuccessfully. This session will provide tools for navigating political traps, confronting special interests, and earning widespread support for decisions while also building on concepts of equity, fairness, and accountability. Speakers will share examples of how they successfully navigated the politics of budgeting and provide advice on how to hone your political leadership skills.

MON
10 JUN
1:30 PM-2:20 PM ET

PROCUREMENT

Navigating Contractor Disputes

Whether in our professional or personal lives, we've all heard horror stories about contractor disputes throwing projects off their timeline and causing budget overruns. This session will explore how local governments can manage contractor disputes, from change orders to performance issues. Panelists will discuss topics including the main drivers of contract disputes, how to better understand your risks, essential contract terms for local government, and how to identify problematic situations before they occur.

MON
10 JUN
2:40 PM-3:55 PM ET

CAPITAL PLANNING AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Climate Cost Collision: Addressing Climate Mitigation at the Local Level

Climate change will be felt at a local level and governments will need to better understand how they will be impacted and what they will need to do to address challenges from sea-level rise, flooding, drought, severe weather, public health, population change, or more. The session will help finance professionals identify key risks that governments face, provide tools for assessing the financial and long-term budget implications, and provide ideas for potential mitigation strategies. In addition, speakers will highlight innovative and creative solutions that governments can take advantage of now to better prepare their leaders, the organization, and overall community.

BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT, RISK ASSESSMENT

MON
10 JUN
4:15 PM-5:30 PM ET

Risky Business: What's the Right Amount of Reserves?

Governments are subject to financial shocks, including natural catastrophes, recessions, and more. Financial reserves are essentially a form of self-insurance that governments use to buffer themselves against these risks. But what are the risks governments should be concerned about? What size of reserves is appropriate to cover risks? What opportunities are there to use commercial insurance to help cover these risks? Speakers in this session will answer these questions and more. Attendees will leave with resources and strategies to apply risk-aware and risk-savvy thinking to reserves in their own organizations.

ERP SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

TUE
11 JUN
10:20 AM-Noon ET

From Excel to AI: Low Cost Technologies with Big Impact

Technology has the opportunity to drive efficiencies, improve services, and transform organizations of all types and sizes. While some technology is expensive and very difficult to implement, some can be very affordable and readily available for all GFOA members. Attend this session to learn about low-cost options that you can use to improve your own productivity or use to introduce new improvements to your organization. Speakers will highlight simple to use tools for analytics, communications, process improvement, and group collaboration, and discuss the impact of artificial intelligence on options that may be available in the future.

BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

TUE
11 JUN
2:00 PM-3:15 PM ET

Let's Make Some Magic: The Basics of Business Process Improvement

Do you ever wish you could wave a magic wand to fix a broken process in your organization? Unfortunately, it's not quite that simple, but in this session, you will learn skills and techniques you can employ to improve all types of processes in your organization. Speakers will discuss their approach to business process improvement, give advice on managing change, and inspire you to make your own magic in your organization.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TUE
11 JUN
3:35 PM-4:50 PM ET

Urban Forum: Responding to the Homelessness Crisis

Homelessness is a growing challenge facing nearly every urban area across the United States and Canada. Just as there is not one cause of this crisis, there is not one solution either. Addressing this challenge will require a multi-pronged approach and partnerships between different organizations. This session is hosted by GFOA's Urban Forum and all current forum members. Those interested in joining the forum are invited to attend to learn how some communities are addressing homelessness and how they are funding these efforts.

GFOA's Urban Forum is free for GFOA members from large urban governments and exists to provide opportunities for networking and exchanging information on topics unique to the demands of managing large and complex organizations.

ERP SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

WED
12 JUN
8:30 AM-10:10 AM ET

A New Tool for Public Finance: Can AI Hack a Brighter Future?

Love it or hate it, artificial intelligence (AI) is not going anywhere. It won't solve all public finance problems, but it's a new and developing technology that has potential to make our jobs a bit easier. In this session, you'll learn about the latest advancements in AI technologies and see how some local governments are utilizing AI-powered tools to work smarter, not harder. The session will also highlight concerns about legal, ethical, and security issues and how to prepare your organization for upcoming discussions and debate on effective introduction of AI.

CAPITAL PLANNING AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

WED
12 JUN
10:30 AM-12:10 PM
ET

The Role of Natural Assets in Planning for Resiliency

If we still think that cement and steel alone can save us, we are using 1950s thinking to battle 2020s issues. Recently, we dealt with floods filling subway tunnels, witnessed a hurricane reach the Maritimes, saw the largest dollar disaster in United States history (again), saw impacts from wildfire smoke cover practically the entire continent. Change is the only constant. How can finance professionals lead the charge to bring about differences in thinking about how we prepare for and protect ourselves against natural disasters. What can we be doing differently? What assets can we utilize to help protect our communities, and how can we create incentives for smarter, disaster aware planning to create more sustainable organizations and communities for the future.