



GGFOA Public Finance Leadership Academy (PFLA) Scholarship

The Georgia Government Finance Officers Association (GGFOA) will offer two (2) scholarships for qualified applicants to attend the Carl Vinson Institute of Government's 2025-2026 Public Finance Leadership Academy (PFLA) to be held October 2025 through May 2026.

This is an exciting opportunity that you do not want to miss. The Public Finance Leadership Academy, a new certificate program announced during the 39th GGFOA Annual Conference, will equip new and emerging public sector financial management leaders with the knowledge they need to successfully manage the fiscal affairs and activities of a local government. As a participant in this six-month cohort program, you will learn from your peers, industry professionals and leadership experts to take your skills to the next level. PFLA participants will encounter next-level training in financial management, studying intergovernmental agreements, contractual debt obligations, long-term fiscal sustainability measures, property taxes, pensions and OPEB as well as the Capital Improvement Process, financing options, referendums, underlying credit and bond ratings, and more. In addition, PFLA will offer the latest training in government leadership. For more information visit the CVIOG website at <https://cviog.uga.edu/training/financial-management/pfla.html>.

Required criteria for this scholarship:

- Current GGFOA member at the time of application.
- Attended six GGFOA training opportunities over the past four years. The annual GGFOA conference will count as two training opportunities.
- Successful completion of Level II Finance Officer Certification or completion of Level I with progress towards Level II; alternatively, candidates who hold certain financial professional designations will be eligible for consideration without meeting the Level I and Level II requirement. Please consult PFLA application.
- **Copy of completed PFLA application**, found at above referenced CVIOG website.
- Acceptance into the program by the PFLA Advisory Board, made up of finance professionals across the State of Georgia.
- Provide a report to the GGFOA Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting following the Public Finance Leadership Academy completion. This report is to identify his/her experience at the Leadership Academy, what they thought went well, what they thought could be improved, etc.

The GGFOA Scholarships/Awards Committee will review all applications and determine whether the applicant meets the GGFOA criteria, and will consider the completed PFLA application's information as well as the following in awarding a scholarship:

- Years of membership in GGFOA
- Participation in GGFOA conferences and seminars
- GGFOA committee and/or leadership positions
- Years in governmental finance

The PFLA application submission deadline to CVIOG is **September 19, 2025**, also the Scholarship application to GGFOA is **September 1, 2025**. Applicant is expected to be notified by **September 30, 2025** if they have been awarded this scholarship. Please don't let this opportunity slip away – get busy and apply today!

Submit the GGFOA scholarship application and a copy of the completed PFLA application to the Chair of the GGFOA Scholarship/Awards Committee by **September 1, 2025** (Jonathan Smith smith.jonathan@columbusga.org). The subject line of the e-mail should read: **GGFOA-PFLA Scholarship Application**.



GGFOA PUBLIC FINANCE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (PFLA) SCHOLARSHIP

Name: _____

Employed by: _____

Position: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Telephone: _____

How many years have you been a GGFOA member: _____

Please list GGFOA committee and/or leadership positions:

How many years have you worked in governmental finance: _____

Please list the GGFOA trainings you have attended in the past 4 years:

Please submit this application **along with a copy of** the CVIOP's completed PFLA Application <https://cviog.uga.edu/training/financial-management/pfla.html> to Jonathan Smith at smith.jonathan@columbusga.org no later than **September 1, 2025**. The subject line of the e-mail should read: **GGFOA-PFLA Scholarship Application**.

If you are selected to receive this scholarship you will be notified by GGFOA with further instructions.



UNIVERSITY OF
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Carl Vinson
Institute of Government



PUBLIC FINANCE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

(PFLA runs from October 2025 through May 2026)

APPLICATION

(Deadline to apply is September 19, 2025)

PURPOSE

To equip new and emerging public sector financial management leaders with the knowledge they need to successfully manage the fiscal affairs and activities of a local government.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant First and Last Name: _____

Local Government Employer: _____

Business Address

Street: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Business Email Address: _____

Business Phone Number: _____

Personal Phone Number: _____

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current Job Title: _____

Years in Current Position: _____

Current Job Duties:



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Employer's Name	Beginning Date	Ending Date

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Level of Education

- Graduate Degree Year Graduated: _____
- Bachelor's Degree Year Graduated: _____
- High School Year Graduated: _____

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Level I Completion

- Yes
- No

Level II Completion

- Yes
- No

Professional Designations

- CPA
- CPFO
- CGFM

Professional Organizations:

Roles in Professional Organizations:

Professional Awards and/or Recognition:



APPLICANT ESSAY

Why do you want to participate in this program?

What do you hope to gain by completing this program?



Required Signatures

Supervisor - I certify I am the supervisor for the applicant and will allow sufficient time from work to complete the program.

_____ Date: _____

Applicant - If chosen for the Public Finance Leadership Academy, I understand that I am responsible for the \$2,799 registration fee and will be able to attend all sessions.

_____ Date: _____

Please attach the following documents to this application to be considered for the program:

- A current chronological resume
- At least one letter of support/approval for participation from current manager/supervisor or city or county leader

Send completed application and attachments to:

John Hulseley at jhulseley@uga.edu OR to
UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government
2530 Sever Road, Suite 100, Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Do not send tuition with this application. You will receive an email indicating if you have been accepted into the program with further instructions for registering and paying tuition.



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Public Finance Leadership Academy

The Public Finance Leadership Academy (PFLA), offered in partnership between the UGA Institute of Government and the Georgia Government Finance Officers Association, will equip new and emerging public sector financial management leaders with the knowledge they need to successfully manage and communicate at all levels of government.

Participants in this six-month cohort program will work with a robust slate of experts diverse in background, talents and expertise.

Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

PFLA is an innovative professional development program that combines the latest in leadership and financial management training. Program curriculum is both timely and relevant, providing a unique focus on how legal frameworks and human interactions come to play in working across diverse levels of public organizations.



INNOVATIVE
and specialized
professional
development program



TARGETED
for new and developing
public leaders



TIMELY
and relevant
curriculum content



COMPREHENSIVE
and challenging
certificate track

Building on a Foundation of Success

For years, the Georgia Government Finance Officers Association and the UGA Institute of Government have partnered to bring professional development opportunities to finance professionals across the State of Georgia as a means of promoting excellence in public finance.

The Level I and Level II Finance Officer Certification programs provide foundational knowledge and technical skills in a number of areas that are critical to the financial management of local governments or authorities.

Our Public Finance Leadership Academy builds upon these foundational steps, offering a distinguished training experience that combines technical know-how with leadership prowess. The result is the latest expertise in government finance and leadership.

To access and download the PFLA application, scan the QR code or visit <https://cviog.uga.edu/resources/documents/training/pfla-application.pdf>



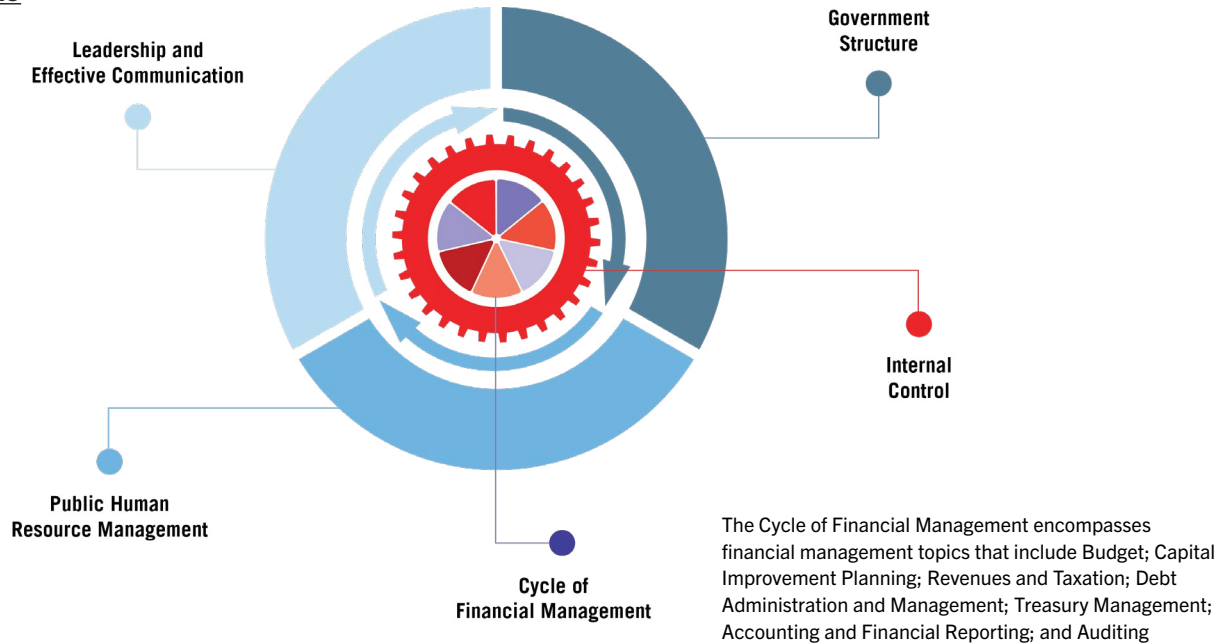
THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS SEPTEMBER 19, 2025!

Please check out our program, the Public Finance Leadership Academy, at <https://cviog.uga.edu/pfla>

A SPECIALIZED CURRICULUM

Focus Areas emphasize next-level skills in navigating government functions and services and offer participants the opportunity to apply the interrelated components of internal control to mitigate risks inherent in the cycle of financial management. Advanced leadership analysis and training is woven into each piece of the curriculum.

PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

To earn a Public Finance Leadership Academy certificate, participants must complete 82 program hours through a variety of instructional activities covering the program's core curriculum.

PREREQUISITE: successful completion of the Level II Finance Officer Certification or completion of Level I with progress towards Level II; alternatively, candidates who hold certain financial professional designations: Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) will be eligible for consideration without meeting the Level I and Level II requirement.

ASSESSMENTS: pre- and post-assessment; and a Capstone project. The Capstone project is intended to demonstrate the participant's ability to apply the skills and knowledge acquired during the program as well as provide a direct benefit to their government.

CLASS SIZE: a cohort of up to 20 participants

INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY: a blended approach offering virtual-live, face-to-face, and hybrid learning experiences; customize your training experience to meet your needs. Our UGA classrooms are equipped with cameras and technology that will provide remote participants the opportunity to interact with the instructor and their peers as if they were in the classroom on campus.

RECOGNITION: Upon successful completion of the program, participants will receive a certificate of achievement issued by the UGA Institute of Government and the Georgia Government Finance Officers Association.

COST: \$2,799

2025–2026 PFLA COHORT SCHEDULE

A detailed list of sessions is available at <https://cviog.uga.edu/training/financial-management/pfla-curriculum.html>.

October 27	PFLA Kick-Off (UGA-Athens)
October 28–29	Leadership and Effective Communication
November 6	Government Structure and Operations/ Internal Control
December 4	Public Human Resource Management
January 15	Treasury Management and Cash Flow Forecasting
February 4	Advanced Debt Issuance
February 18	Economic Development
March 3	Budgeting for Long-Term Sustainability
March 26	Millage Rate Process
April 7	Data Visualization and Creating Dashboards
April 22–23	Preparing the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
May 7	Preparing for the Audit
May 8	PFLA Graduation

Cohort participants will kick off this year's program in Athens with a 3-day/2-night stay at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel; this stay is included in the registration fee of \$2,799. On day one, cohort participants will arrive in Athens the afternoon of October 27, 2025, to begin their journey. Later that evening, participants will have an opportunity to network and get to know their peers before enjoying a banquet-style dinner with an action packed agenda and featured keynote speaker. Days two and three will be devoted to a discussion on the topic, "Leadership and Effective Communication." Participants will depart from the Georgia Center at 4:00pm on October 29.