



NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

I. NCGFOA Awards of Excellence honor and recognize

- 1) an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership, financial acumen, and sustained contributions to the field of public finance in North Carolina and
- 2) individuals or teams who have successfully implemented innovative financial strategies, technologies, or processes that enhance public sector operations

The program is designed to:

- motivate finance professionals to aim for high standards in their work, continuous improvement and accountability.
- identify and share best practices and success stories that create opportunities for collaboration, mentoring and educating others who can adopt similar strategies to enhance efficiency and performance.
- demonstrate NCGFOA commitment to excellence and the professional development of its members.
- reward transparency, fiscal responsibility, and ethical governance and build trust with the public and elected officials.

For the inaugural 2026 awards there are no separate categories for unit size, region or unit type.

II. Award Descriptions and Criteria

1. Outstanding Finance Officer Award

Purpose:

To honor and recognize an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership, financial acumen, and sustained contributions to the field of public finance in North Carolina.

Eligibility:

- Must be a current member of NCGFOA
- Minimum of five (5) years of professional experience in governmental finance
- Must hold a financial leadership or supervisory position in a local government entity

Evaluation Criteria:

- Demonstrated excellence in leadership and ethical financial stewardship
- Tangible contributions to improving the financial operations or financial position of their organization
- Positive and lasting impact on their department, community, or the profession at large
- Professional development and collaboration with others inside Finance, the unit or the profession.

Structured Evaluation and Scoring

The following criteria will be applied to evaluate and compare nominations for the Outstanding Finance Officer Award.

Criterion	Weight
Leadership and ethical stewardship	30%
Tangible contributions to financial operations and/or position	25%
Community, organizational or professional impact	25%
Professional Development and Collaboration	20%

2. Innovation in Government Finance Award Individual and Team Nominations**Purpose:**

To honor and recognize individuals or teams who have successfully collaborated and implemented innovative financial strategies, technologies, or processes that enhance public sector financial operations.

Eligibility:

- Open to individuals or teams in which at least one member is a member of NCGFOA
- The innovation must have been implemented within the previous two calendar years

Evaluation Criteria:

- Originality and creativity of the financial innovation
- Measurable impact, such as cost savings, transparency, operational efficiency, or service improvement
- Potential for replication or adaptation by other jurisdictions
- Degree of stakeholder and/or cross-departmental or intergovernmental collaboration

Structured Evaluation and Scoring:

The following criteria will be applied to evaluate and compare nominations:

Criterion	Weight
Originality and/or creativity of the innovation	30%
Measurable impact of the innovation	25%
Potential for replication or adaptation by other jurisdictions	25%
Stakeholder and/or cross departmental or intergovernmental collaboration	20%

III. 2026 Awards Process

Application Timeline:

- Applications open: November 18, 2025
- Deadline for submissions: Sunday January 4, 2026, 11:59 pm
- Winners announced and recognized: NCGFOA Spring Conference, Monday February 16, 2026, Pinehurst, North Carolina

Form of Application:

Required information follows on the next page in the Awards Format. The nomination should be in a Word document. Attachments should be provided in PDF.

Submission Method:

Applications must be submitted electronically to: Karen Mills, Director of Strategic Management, NCGFOA, Karen.Mills@ncgfoa.org

Award Process:

Use of standardized rubric and a series of multi-member review panels of qualified, independent judges that are free of conflicts of interest will ensure transparency, reduce bias, and increase diversity in recognition.

Reservations:

NCGFOA intends to consider awards annually, however reserves the right to not make awards in the case of insufficient nominations that meet award criteria or exceptional events such as pandemics, disasters, etc.

NCGFOA Awards Nomination Format

Submit all required fields in a single Word document. Attach optional materials in PDF.

Section 1 – Nominee Information

- Full Name:
- Title/Position:
- Organization:
- Email Address:
- Phone Number:
- Years of Service:

Section 2 – Award Category

☐ Outstanding Finance Officer Award **OR** ☐ Innovation in Government Finance Award

Section 3 – Nominator Information

- Full Name:
- Title/Position:
- Organization:
- Email Address:
- Phone Number
- Relationship to Nominee

Section 4 – Nomination Statement

Attach a written statement of a maximum of 1,000 words, (typically two pages, single spaced using 12-point font and one-inch margins) addressing the following points:

- Rationale for nomination
- Alignment with the stated award criteria
- Description of contributions, impact, leadership and/or innovation
- Supporting evidence (e.g., metrics, reports, success stories)

Section 5 – Optional Supporting Materials

You may submit any of the following, in PDF format:

- Letters of support (maximum of 2), letter writer's relationship to the nominee should be included.
- Project documentation or reports
- News articles, presentations, or external recognitions
- Resume of the nominee